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Qatar-Saudi Arabia

The border clash between Qatar and Saudi Arabia has escalated amid reports that Saudi Arabian troops have seized the same border post that was attacked on 30 September, the Qatar News Agency (QNA) reports. In the meantime, the Kuwaiti prime minister has left for Riyadh in an attempt to mediate in the "crisis." According to QNA, a "large Saudi military force circled and forced the border guards to abandon the post in a disputed border zone of southeastern Qatar." The Saudi Government denied the report of the border takeover, saying: "We feel deep regret, mixed with surprise, for all the communiques and statements emanating from our Qatari brothers," Riyadh SPA reports. The Saudi Government also rejected Qatar's decision, made after the first attack, to sever a border agreement enacted by the two countries in 1965.

Syria

After extending the talks for two days, delegates to the Syrian-Iraqi-Turkish technical committee on water are trying to find "acceptable" proposals for sharing the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, AFP reports. An Iraqi official is reported to have said that Turkey "should allow more water" from the Euphrates River to flow into Syria and downstream to Iraq, and he complained that Iraq's share was "insufficient."

Algeria

Four members of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front have been arrested for the bombing of the Houari Boumedienne International Airport on 26 August that left nine people dead and 128 injured, Algiers TV reports. One of the accused is a pilot with Air Algerie airlines.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Musa has said that the government has "conducted mediation efforts" for "high-level" exchanges between Israel and Syria "to advance the peace talks," MENA reports. According to Musa, "these efforts stumbled" due to Syria's insistence that Israel should make "certain concessions." Musa said the government holds the view that Syria "must agree" on "full peace" and Israel on "full withdrawal" for an agreement to be reached.

Iran

During an interview with Tehran TV, Deputy Foreign Minister Va'ezi said that the government's position on Abu Musa "has not changed at all" and that "nothing has changed politically." Va'ezi said it is "unfortunate" that "certain countries" want to see the issue "as a serious one" and that they had first tried to the depict it as "a military threat." Va'ezi added that "we prefer...friendly bilateral negotiations at which the issues can be discussed and resolved." Va'ezi concluded his remarks by saying that "calm and stability must rule in the region" and that "the Abu Musa problem will definitely be resolved peacefully."

Palestinian Affairs

'Abbas: Resumption of U.S. Dialogue Unlikely

LD0110203892 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Member Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] has affirmed that there are no signs of a likelihood of a resumption of the Palestinian-American dialogue which stopped on June 1990 on Washington's decision after a landing attempt carried out by the PLO on the Israeli coast.

In an interview published by the paper AL-HAYAT issued in London, he expressed his conviction that no change will take place in the U.S. stance toward the Middle East and the peace process with the change of the current Washington administration.

With regard to the fears of Syria and Israel reaching an agreement at the expense of the Palestinians, brother Abu-Mazin contended that it is not important if one course of action gains a little bit of ground faster than the other as long as all have agreed on the final and comprehensive solution at the same time.

PLO Spokesman Views Peace Talks

NC0210083092 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Telephone interview with official PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman in Tunis by Jamal Imam in Cairo, from the "Dialogue From Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Imam] Good morning.

['Abd-al-Rahman] Good morning to you.

[Imam] One of the most important subjects in our telephone conversation is the meetings of the PLO Central Council on 11 October. We would like to ask about the most important topics that will be discussed in the meetings.

['Abd-al-Rahman] The PLO Central Council will meet on 11 October to evaluate the entire peace process before the decisive round of talks, which will be held on 21 October in Washington, a few days before the 3 November American election. The council will evaluate the peace process and the positions of the Palestinians, the Arabs, Israelis, and the United States, which sponsors the process. The council will also assess proposals made and stances adopted during the sixth round of talks.

The PLO political leadership, in particular president Yasir 'Arafat, will make a comprehensive political presentation of all these developments in both regional and international arenas. The council will discuss developments in light of the Palestinian president's report and will make the decisions that would serve the national interest of the Palestinian people and the peace process, in which the Palestinian delegation is participating along with the other Arab delegations.

[Imam] PLO official spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, how do you see the seventh round of talks?

['Abd-al-Rahman] As you know, Palestinian president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] paid an important visit to Cairo, where he held a lengthy meeting with President Husni Mubarak and another meeting with officials at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. The meetings made a comprehensive review of all pending issues and of all topics raised during the sixth round. The meetings resulted in a full Egyptian-Palestinian agreement on the next moves. The Egyptian side, on President Husni Mubarak's instruction, will hold Arab and international contacts to promote the Palestinian position and the Palestinian viewpoint offered during the sixth round.

I would like to point out that the Palestinians have been committed to the peace process from the start. We joined the process based on the text of the invitation to the talks and the letter of assurances that we received before the Madrid conference. The Israelis are clearly violating the text of the invitation and the letter of assurances. We want the Israelis to abide by what they agreed to and to stick to the basis on which the Madrid conference was launched, UN Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace. I believe the Palestinians will remain committed to the peace process, but in return, will call upon the cosponsors to prove they are committed. Without the cosponsors' intervention, Israel's ability to maneuver may be stronger than some people believe.

[Imam] In a statement to the Israeli newspaper MA'ARIV, Yitzhaq Rabin explicitly said that Israel's security is the most important thing, even having precedence over peace. What is your comment?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Clearly, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has recently made extremely contradictory statements. In some, he expresses adherence to peace and the spirit of ('Madrid' while in others, he appears totally contradictory. He talks about security being more important than peace. We say security cannot be achieved without peace.

[Imam] Don't some Arabs wonder about Israel's recent proposal, made by Rabin, about the possibility of a confederation with the Palestinians at some advanced stage?

['Abd-al-Rahman] It is strange that Rabin is trying to bypass the issues that must be solved and is talking about subjects that are not on the agenda and never have been. The agenda includes a land-for-peace exchange, an Israeli withdrawal, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state. These are the topics proposed for discussion—peace and stability, disarmament in the Middle East, and cooperation. The Israelis must be serious in addressing a situation that has led to six wars so far.

Circumventing these issues and talking about a confederation or other things is premature and not proposed. I believe that through such proposals, the Israeli prime minister is trying to delude world public opinion into thinking that his political language is based on peace and a world free of wars and conflicts. This is nothing more than a public relations exercise that must be avoided. It led to Shamir's downfall.

[Imam] Talking about Shamir, do you think Rabin is using Shamir's language?

['Abd-al-Rahman] Curiously, the political content is the same, but the style and vocabulary are different.

[Imam] Official PLO spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, can we confirm through the Voice of the Arabs and the Dialogue From Afar program that you gave instructions to step up the intifadah as a reaction to Rabin's recent statements?

['Abd-al-Rahman] The intifadah is continuing, escalating, and playing its role. It is a reaction to the worsening occupation against our people, kinfolk, and land.

[Imam] Didn't the intifadah escalate after the sixth round of Arab-Israeli negotiations?

['Abd-al-Rahman] The reason is that Yitzhaq Rabin's government changed nothing of the oppression against the Palestinian people. Israel is using special units—what it calls Arabized units, Israeli soldiers in Palestinian clothes—to raid houses, neighborhoods, camps, and villages. They fire at people under the pretext of searching for wanted parties. These condemned acts, which the Security Council denounced, are continuing under Rabin's government. This is what leads to violence in our occupied territories.

[Imam] PLO official Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, thank you again from the Voice of the Arabs.

['Abd-al-Rahman] I thank you and the Voice of the Arabs and I hope you will remain with us in this long march, until the Palestinian people regain their legitimate rights and establish their independent state with Jerusalem as its capital.

'Ashrawi Says Team Will Bring No New Proposals

JN0110204192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi on 1 October, carried within the "With the Events" program; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. 'Ashrawi, the Palestinian side held a meeting today. What was the aim of that meeting?

['Ashrawi] It is, in fact, a normal meeting of the delegation to review affairs and issues related to the peace march. It is nothing out of the ordinary.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, do the delegation members hold identical views on the strategy for the upcoming round of talks?

['Ashrawi] Views on the previous round of negotiations were identical, and the assessment was clear and identical as well regarding what has been achieved. Regarding strategy for the upcoming round, we can say it is still being discussed. As you know, it is the PLO which makes final decisions on strategy. We are still assessing the previous stage and are drawing conclusions because it was basically a stage for exploring the positions of the new Israeli Government. We are still analyzing and assessing what took place during the previous round.

[Mu'addi] What will the Palestinian side recommend to the political leadership regarding the upcoming round of talks?

['Ashrawi] There has been no recommendation. After drawing conclusions, the Palestinian side submits analyses, assessments, and proposals rather than specific recommendations. It submits the results of this continuous assessment.

[Mu'addi] Will we witness anything new along the Palestinian track in Washington?

['Ashrawi] We hope that the next round will be a round of accomplishment, as the Palestinian side has presented its position clearly and firmly and stressed Palestinian rights during this stage. The Israeli side should deal with the march and its authority positively and constructively. This has yet to take place. However, the previous round of talks provided a few signs of a possible shift. However, these signs are insufficient. The basic positions of both sides are still contradictory.

[Mu'addi] Will the Palestinian side bring new ideas or proposals to the next round?

['Ashrawi] The Palestinian position is firm and needs no new ideas or proposals. Tactics and ways of dealing with the basic issues may differ, but the Palestinian strategy remains firm and clear.

[Mu'addi] Thank you Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

Support for Delegation to Peace Talks Urged

NC0110095192 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Sep 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial entitled: "Our Negotiating Delegation With Full Confidence and Hope"]

[Text] The opening of a quiet, constructive dialogue remains one of the best means of solving any problem

and bridging any gap in the views of the brothers in the homeland on every issue being discussed within the Palestinians' endeavor to achieve their national goals and aims.

It is impermissible under any circumstances that some people should try to use national causes, particularly sensitive issues concerning the negotiating process, for one-upmanship and theorizing in the name of democracy. Democracy is our people's safety valve and impregnable shield in crisis. Democracy has its controls, which place it always in the service of national causes. The sensitive national causes should not be the object of one-upmanship in the name of democracy.

Some people do not understand the essence of the whole democratic process, which eventually serves the homeland, not the process of settling accounts and scoring points.

It is only natural for the views and interpretations of the sons of the same homeland to differ when they assess the negotiating process, just as it is also natural that the minority should adhere to the majority's opinion.

We reassert the need to strengthen the internal Palestinian front by enhancing democracy and preferring the language of dialogue to other means. We hope some people will stop dragging the Palestinian path into marginal battles that serve only our people's enemies.

The negotiations continue. They are a means of preplanned, legitimate struggle, which is being exercised through the norms of struggle by people who achieved their goals at the negotiating table. Facts should not be falsified and baseless rumors should not be disseminated to cast doubt on our delegation's ability, something that demoralizes the delegation and kills its spirit of creativity.

What is required is full confidence and hope in our negotiating delegation as it fights our battle to achieve the national goals. We are confident that our delegation, which conveys every detail inside the negotiating hall to the PLO, which continuously gives the delegation its instructions, can distinguish between the good and the bad. We are also confident that our delegation can, through the courage and resolve it derives from the confidence of its people and leadership, confront all the attempts that aim to circumvent our people's legitimate national rights and pursue its struggle until we achieve our desired goals.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Arms Delivery to Israel

NC3009192692 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 28 Sep 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Peace...Advanced and High Quality Weapons. How? And Where To?"]

[Text] It is not the first time that the United States is supplying or will supply Israel with the most advanced and superior weapons in the region and possibly in the entire world. At any rate, it will not be the last time—in accordance with the U.S.-Israeli relationship and its unique strategic dimensions. Washington will deliver a new "batch" of these advanced weapons during the next 12 months that will include 34 Apache and Blackhawk helicopters. Washington will also stockpile very advanced ammunitions inside Israel itself. But this delivery comes this time amid the peace process in the region. How could this peace be real when there is more U.S. military support for Israel at a time when the peaceful political process itself underlines the inevitability of reducing and limiting the weapons of all the countries in the region? Or is the reduction and limitation of weapons limited to the Arab countries?

Besides these direct questions, there is another one: What is the meaning of holding to the U.S. theory of maintaining Israel's qualitative military superiority over all the Arab countries and other neighboring countries, since the whole region is moving toward a comprehensive peace for all? Or are Washington and Israel not really confident of this peace, and are they thus enhancing their intensive military efforts to face any eventuality?

Herein lies the ultimate irony between the concept of those who believe in peacemaking on the one hand and those who have more trust and deeper confidence in military power alone; between a belief that peace requires disarmament or the reduction and limitation of weapons, and the belief in something else that requires nothing other than advanced and superior weapons. How can this desired peace grow between a party that is enjoying superiority and one that is not, or between a strong party and a weaker one? Will this not be the capitulation imposed by the strong on the weak, by the one enjoying superiority on the weaker one, or ultimately the one lagging far behind?

There are many questions. We do not in fact know how the United States, the primary peace sponsor, can answer them. We also do not know how the next rounds of negotiations can absorb this development and proceed.

Habash Says Israel Trying To 'Stir Up Unrest'

PM2809120392 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Sep 92 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Israel Demands 'Constructive Gesture of Hope' from Syria"]

[Excerpt] London, occupied Jerusalem, Washington, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—[passage omitted] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by George Habash yesterday denied that Israeli authorities could have seized its archives in the occupied territories. The Front's press bureau in Damascus said that the Israeli announcement in this connection "falls into the context of the campaign launched by Israeli intelligence to stir up unrest and an atmosphere of mistrust among the Front's ranks." The Front, which is

part of the PLO and is opposed to the transitional self-rule proposed by the Hebrew state to the Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, condemned the "hysterical campaign" against Ahmad Sulayman Qatamish, whom the Israeli Army said it had arrested at the beginning of September and whom it introduced as the Front's official in the occupied territories. The Front said that these Israeli accusations "cause us to fear for his life in Israeli jails."

Popular Struggle Front Denies Link to Hamas Group

JN0110173292 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] The Palestinian Popular Struggle Front has denied any connection with the announced establishment of a Hamas-led framework named The Follow-up Committee Opposed to Surrender, and has rejected attempts to involve the front in this issue.

In a press statement issued in the Syrian capital, Damascus, the front said: We would like to affirm that we have no connection with this framework, that we denounce involvement of our front in this issue and declare our rejection of this policy. We, as well as all strugglers among our people, adhere to the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of our people and as the only framework for unity of all the Palestinian national factions, forces, and figures. We also rally around our courageous Palestinian delegation, which is fighting the enemy's intransigence and proposals by rejecting settlement, reparations, and administrative rule. [Words indistinct] and their struggle to extricate our national right to repatriation and self-determination through a limited transitional stage covering all the Palestinian territories occupied by the enemy, foremost among them being Jerusalem, the capital of our Palestinian state.

The statement appealed to all forces to reinforce Palestinian national unity, escalate the brave intifadah, support the Palestinian resistance, and end differences through democratic dialogue and Palestinian institutions and framework.

Algeria

Perpetrators of Airport Bomb Attack Arrested

LD0110210492 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Excerpt] As a result of the initial investigation into the crime at Houari Boumedienne International Airport on 26 August, which left 9 dead and 128 injured in addition to considerable material damage, the security services succeeded in arresting a number of persons. According to initial confessions of those who masterminded and carried out this crime, the arrested belong to the outlawed association with political tendencies: the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

The accused are:

1. Hocine Abderrahim, alias Navir, aged 36, who lives in Baraki, Algiers. He has a BA degree in political sciences but is unemployed at the moment; he is a bachelor. He is accused in the case of Bouya Ali Mustapha. On 10 July [year unspecified] he was sentenced to three years imprisonment but was pardoned on 7 June 1989. He has been a member of the FIS since its inception and held a post at the national bureau in charge of social affairs; then he occupied the post of head of [FIS leader] Abassi Madani's office, and was vice director of management and promotion of Islamic municipalities. He was appointed administrative director of the Islamic Labor Union. He was elected during the first round of the legislative elections on 26 December 1991.

2. Hchaichi Rachid, born in May 1946 at el Biar, Algiers, and living in the Rabia district in the capital. He is a captain with Air Algerie airlines. He has a baccalaureat, a BA degree in mathematics, and also a professional pilot's degree from Yugoslavia. He also holds the degree of professional pilot, grade A from France; and pilot of distances degree from the United States. He joined the FIS in 1991 as a militant and was chairman of the Islamic Labor Union of Air Algerie company since March 1991.

3. Soussan Said, known as Omar, aged 41 from Taourirt-Ighil, Bejaia, has a secondary education degree, is unemployed, and lives in Bouzaria. He was arrested on 26 November 1986 because of involvement in the case of Bouya Ali Mustapha. He was sentenced to three years imprisonment but was pardoned on 7 June 1989. He has been a member of the outlawed FIS since its formation. He was elected vice president of Bouzaria municipality on 12 June 1990.

4. Rouabhi Mohamed, born on 1 July 1942 in Tebessa, lives in Barzali avenue, Hocine Dey, Algiers. He is headmaster of a secondary school and lecturer. He has a BA in economics, BA in literature, a general culture degree, a professional degree, and one in administrative management. He is an active member of the Islamic Call Movement, and has been a supporter of the Islamic Labor Union since its formation.

Ali Kafi Signs Ordinance Combating Terrorism

LD0110215692 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] We have learned from well-informed sources that Mr Ali Kafi, chairman of the Higher State Council [HSC], has signed the ordinance on combating sabotage and terrorism.

HSC Continues Talks; FLN Approves Meetings

LD0110022292 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] The Higher State Council [HSC] continues its consultations with parties, societies, and personalities. Today it received a delegation from the Islamic Nahdah movement, led by the leader of the movement, Abdallah Djaballah.

The HSC issued a statement saying that, during this meeting, all national issues raised at present were discussed.

The Political Bureau of the National Liberation Front [FLN] observed that, as the consultations were started in an atmosphere of firmness and the spirit of responsibility, it is considered a positive indicator.

The bureau, in a statement issued today, said that these consultations should open the road to a comprehensive national dialogue and that they should center on discussing ways and means to ensure the establishment of security and the restoration of tranquillity and a return to democratic life, which guarantees the people the choice of their representatives at all levels, as well as discussing the means to ensure the overcoming of the economic and social crisis.

The Society for Unity and Action also expressed its stand on the consultations of the HSC with parties, societies, and personalities. The leader of the society, Mahdi Allalou, observed at a news conference today that the dialogue should be national and for national concord, and this has not yet occurred. He noted that what is being done by the HSC is talks and contacts with political personalities.

Government of National Unity Urged

LD0110153592 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Excerpts] For 10 days now, the Algerian authorities have been having talks with the political parties. These talks, which are supposed to prepare the future of the country, are being held confidentially. In fact, the government has asked its interlocutors to keep a low profile, even though they are trying indirectly to make their claims known. Here is a dispatch from Algiers by Anne Dissez.

Since 21 September the Higher State Council has received five parties, and each time exactly the same

communique was published by the Higher State Council, with the only thing changing in the statement being the name of the party received. [passage omitted]

However, the Socialist Forces Front (FFS) has decided to sidestep the prohibition on revealing contents of the dialogue by publishing in the press the day after the meeting and in the form of an advertisement the full text of the memorandum handed over by the FFS delegation to the representatives of the Higher State Council.

This idea was also used by the National Liberation Front [FLN], which has published a statement 10 days after its discussions with the Higher State Council. In their adopted positions, the two most important Algerian opposition parties have proposed, in different ways, the setting up of a government of national unity, a body which, the FFS believes, should be coupled with a national committee to monitor transition.

These adopted positions are in sharp contrast with the Algerian press's reluctance to criticize the government since the coming to power of Belaid Abdessalam, and which will perhaps make it possible to enter a real dialogue this time, a dialogue where ideas and proposals are exchanged.

Egypt

Musa Cited on Mediation for Syria, Israel

NC0110122392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Washington, 1 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated that Egypt conducted mediation efforts for high-level exchanges between Syria and Israel in a bid to advance the peace talks.

During a meeting with THE WASHINGTON POST editorial staff a few hours before leaving Washington, Musa said these efforts stumbled, because Syria insisted that Israel should make certain concessions at the negotiating table. The foreign minister said the efforts were made when Syria and Israel reached a deadlock in the talks held in Washington last month. The two sides differed about whether to discuss the peace conditions first, as Israel wanted, or to discuss the issue of withdrawal before anything else, as Syria wished.

In his statement, the foreign minister said Egypt had tried to hold contacts or arrange meetings between Syria and Israel, particularly when foreign ministers were in New York for the UN General Assembly's 47th session. He noted an attempt to hold a meeting between Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres. He said Syria refused to attend the meeting and insisted Israel should first clearly announce its desire to withdraw from the occupied Golan Heights, because Syria would consider the meeting a significant concession on its part.

Musa said it is premature to ask Syria to make such a concession or to embark on a big step toward holding high-level meetings with Israel. This is why it is important to achieve progress, even one or two steps, in the Syrian-Israeli bilateral talks, he said. Musa believes that "many other things can be arranged in this case, including a revision of the Syrian position."

The foreign minister pointed out the Egyptian view on this issue, saying Syria must agree on "full peace" and Israel on "full withdrawal" so that an agreement may be reached.

He said Egypt does not believe Syria should accept a "partial withdrawal," because the issue is land for peace or, more specifically, all the land for complete peace.

He asserted that, once in a while, talk about "regional concessions" is wrong and is bound to lead to the failure of the entire peace process.

In his interview with the American paper's editorial staff, 'Amr Musa said Egypt was disappointed at the lack of progress in the Palestinian-Israeli talks. He said Egypt urged the Palestinian side to accept the autonomy offer soonest. It is not a question of "any offer," he said, adding: The sooner the Palestinian side accepts, the better, because there is a timetable for discussing the final settlement after three years of autonomy.

Japan's Miyazawa on Peace Talks, Egyptian Role

NC0210104692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Cairo, 1 Oct (MENA)—Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa expressed his country's appreciation of the role President Husni Mubarak is performing to achieve Arab consensus in the Gulf crisis and on the Middle East peace process.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Friday [2 October], Miyazawa said that bilateral relations between Egypt and Japan have long been good. He praised Egypt's major role in the current Middle East peace process and expressed the hope that Egypt will continue to perform this important role.

The Japanese prime minister said he hoped President Mubarak's visit to Japan would materialize soon and at a time that suited both sides.

Miyazawa said he believed the bilateral talks currently taking place in Washington are very important and that the parties concerned have begun reaching a stage that could finally lead to a peaceful Middle East settlement.

Concerning a visit to the region, the Japanese prime minister said: I intend first to visit the countries of Southeast Asia. I want to visit Egypt and other Middle Eastern countries if the opportunity arises.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Croatia

NC0210112092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1613 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] The United Nations, 1 Oct (MENA)—Egypt and Croatia agreed to establish diplomatic relations.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Croatian Foreign Minister Zdenko Skrabalo signed the agreement today. The two ministers and their accompanying delegations exchanged greetings and welcomed the establishment of bilateral relations.

Al-Baz Meets With Russian Ambassador 30 Sep

NC3009121392 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1047 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met Russian Ambassador in Cairo Vladimir Polyakov. Afterward, al-Baz said the talks focused on peace in the Middle East and the ongoing negotiations, the bilateral talks in Washington, and the multilateral talks in various capitals. He said they exchanged views concerning what the two countries can do to advance the peace talks. We also discussed the Palestinian position as Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat explained it, he said. Al- Baz noted that he and the Soviet official exchanged information about developments in the Middle East.

U.S. 'Contradictions' in Handling Israel Noted

NC3009081592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—In its editorial tomorrow, AL-AKHBAR writes that simply by insisting on maintaining Israel's military supremacy, Washington is creating the biggest obstacle to persuading Israel of the need to make peace with its Arab neighbors without using military force. The continuing blockade by which America and other well-known countries bar Arab states' access to the weapons they need to defend themselves casts doubts on the American policy, particularly its desire to establish peace in a region that is vital to the economic interests and peace and security of the entire world.

The paper refers to contradictions in U.S. officials' positions, who talk about efforts to restore peace to the Middle East region, while continuing their military support to Israel.

AL-AKHBAR writes that Washington knows better than anyone that, feeling secure about their continuing military supremacy over the Arab world, Tel Aviv's leaders will feel there is no pressing need for peace or to return the occupied lands to their rightful owners.

Daily: Iran Will Be 'Loser' in Islands 'Test'

NC0210075992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Cairo, 2 Oct (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR criticized Iran's occupation of the three United Arab Emirates' islands—Tonb-e Bozorg, Tonb-e Kuchek, and Abu Musa. The paper asks whether the occupation of these three is reason enough for Iran to earn the animosity of all the Arab countries without exception.'

The paper points out that the dispute over the ownership of these islands is not new but, rather, started during the shah's era in 1971 and through the Khomeyni revolution era. AL-AKHBAR says the Arabs thought that after the Iraq-Iran war and the Gulf war, Iran would start a new stage of relations with the Arab world, where amity, cooperation, and confidence would replace animosity and distrust, which had engulfed the atmosphere between the Arabs and Iran. But Tehran's occupation of these islands revealed a strong insistence on maintaining the Arab-Iranian dispute, even worsening it on all levels. The issue has demonstrated Arab consensus in support of the legitimate Arab right over these islands.

AL-AKHBAR concludes: Iran has used the occupation of the three islands as a test of strength against the Arab nation. By any standard, Tehran will definitely be the loser in this test.

Article Urges Closing Arab Ranks Against Iran

NC2809174592 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 25 Sep 92 p 2

[Samir Fu'ad Ramzi article: "Iranian ambition"]

[Text] Finally, Iran has revealed its ugly face to the Gulf states after a long period during which it tried to give the impression that it seeks friendship with the neighboring Arab countries and that it wants security and stability to prevail in the region. Iran's declaration that it now fully controls Abu Musa Island—which belongs to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and which Iran occupied in 1971—proves its wicked intentions. This declaration coincided with news Iran has leaked on its nuclear capability. This proves Iran's malicious designs and its attempts to intimidate the Arab countries.

The recent Iranian declaration reveals the falsehood of the utterances of Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who has stressed that Iran's cordial policy toward other states in the region, especially the UAE, has not changed.

The Gulf War has fragmented the Arab world and destroyed Iraq's military power. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Iran has been seeking to exploit the present conditions in the region in its favor. It has been trying to consolidate its relations with the six former Soviet Islamic republics in a bid to spread its influence and obtain up-to-date weapons. During his recent visit to China, the Iranian President hit a sensitive nerve when

he stressed that the presence of one superpower in the world is a serious precedent. These statements resulted in Iran securing a pledge from China to help it rebuild its armed forces.

To confront Iran's expansionist policy at the expense of its neighbors' sovereignty, it is important that the blockade imposed on Iraq after the liquidation of its weapons of mass destruction should be lifted. Furthermore, it is necessary to halt Western plans to partition Iraq in order to maintain the equilibirium and stability in the region. It is also necessary to close our ranks and discard our differences, since the Iranian ambitions constitute a serious threat to Arab national security.

Libya

Congresses Discuss New Administrative System

LD0110212192 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Excerpts] Having drafted and coordinated the decisions of the Basic People's Congresses [BPCs], which gathered during a four-day period to discuss the new concept of administrative organization and local issues, the People's Congresses at the municipal branch level concluded their meetings this evening.

This concept, which came about during the implementation of the BPC's decisions drafted during its last session, aims to set up a unique people-based administrative system in which the Jamahiriyah is divided into small, self-run communes [mahallat] that exercise popular authority through their people's congresses and committees, which include various service and production sectors. [passage omitted]

The People's Congresses in the municipalities will begin holding their meetings next Saturday, 3 October, to draft the citizens' decisions.

Egypt's Sidqi Arrives in Tripoli 1 Oct

LD0110193892 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1835 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Oct (JANA)—Egyptian Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi arrived in Tripoli this evening heading an important delegation comprised of twelve ministers and several senior officials from various ministries and sectors. They will participate in the fourth round of meetings of the Higher Libyan-Egyptian Arab Committee for Cooperation, due to begin in Tripoli tomorrow.

Sidqi and delegation were met at the airport by the secretary of the General People's Committee; several brother secretaries; the secretary for integration affairs with Egypt; several Tripoli secretaries of the People's Committee; and the chairman and members of the follow-up bureau for Egyptian affairs in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Comments on Joint Committee Meetings

LD0110233392 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Excerpts] Egyptian Prime Minister Sidqi made a statement to a Jamahiriyah News Agency correspondent. At the beginning of his statement, he saluted the brother leader of the revolution and the Arab Libyan people for the efforts they are making to support the ties and the cooperation between sons of the one Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt.

He said: My arrival in Tripoli is to participate in the higher joint committee meetings, through which we are working to strengthen bilateral relations in all fields. This cooperation covers various economic, political, educational, social, health, and commercial activities. We will work together to intensify this cooperation, add a new block to it, and enhance our existing relations in implementating Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President Husni Mubarak's directives. [passage omitted]

Sidqi is accompanied by an important ministerial delegation that includes: Engineer Solayman Mutawalli Sulayman, transport, communications, and maritime transport minister; Engineer 'Isam Radi 'Abd-al-Hamid Radi, minister of public works and water resources; Industry Minister Muhammad Mahmud 'Abd-al-Wahhab; Dr 'Adil 'Abd-al-Hamid 'Izz, minister of state for science research; Health Minister Muhammad Raghib al-Duwaydar; Yusri Ali Mustafa, minister of economics and foreign trade; Finance Minister Muhammad Ahmad al-Razzaz; Manpower and Training Minister 'Asim 'Abd- al-Haq Salih; Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; Ahmad Radwan, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Education Minister Husayn Kamal Baha'-al-Din; Hamdi al-Banbi, minister of petroleum and mineral resources. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Relief Workers Reported Dead; Ministry Protests

EA0110213592 Nairobi KTN Television in English 1800 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Two more relief workers have been reported dead in southern Sudan. Elijah Maluk [executive director of the Sudanese Relief and Rehabilitation Association] has informed Operation Lifeline Sudan that a Kenyan national, Francis Ngure, who worked with UNICEF, and (Vilma Gomez), a Filipino national working with (Interred), were murdered in southern Sudan. The bodies have been missing since Monday [28 September]. Two others of Burmese and Norwegian nationalities were found murdered early this week. They had earlier been captured by soldiers believed to be of the SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] in that country.

[Khartoum SUNA in English at 1710 GMT on 1 October adds the following: "Sudan has condemned the killing of

two foreign relief workers who were caught in cross-fire during the inter-factional fighting of the outlaws in eastern Equatoria recently. A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry told SUNA 1 October that the fighting had also led to the killing of a number of innocent civilians, as the UN had called off its activity in the area.

["The spokesman has expressed the Sudanese Government's deep sorrow for the death of the two foreigners, who came to Sudan for purely humanitarian reasons, and set the blame on the outlaws whom, he said, should be held responsible for the incidents. The outlaws should also be held responsible for the disruption of relief operations which would certainly destabilise the citizens of the area and aggravate their suffering, he said."

[The report adds: "The Foreign Ministry spokesman called upon all nations, governments of the world to denounce and isolate the outlaws as one way of boosting the Sudanese Government's endeavours to restore peace and stability to southern Sudan."]

Foreign Ministry Rebuts U.S. Allegations

EA2909132892 Khartoum SUNA in English 0916 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Khartoum, 28th September (SUNA)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued here Sunday [27 September] a statement refuting allegations by Herman Cohen, assistant of the American Foreign Office minister for African Affairs [title as received], against Sudan, and what he called atrocities practised in Sudan. The statement mentioned that Cohen was used to evoke hatred against Sudan and its Islamic orientation.

The statement pointed out to Herman's [Cohen's] allegations that the American Government doesn't know the causes which led to the prosecution of two of the Sudanese citizens working in office of the American Agency for [International] Development in Juba town. He tried to put immunity on this in front of the Sudanese laws ignoring the absolute equality between the citizens in front of the law.

The statement said that Cohen knows that the Sudanese citizen [as received] involved used his existence in the agency's office in Juba town, and used all the available potentiality in the office to coordinate with the defeated rebellion movement in the last two infiltration operations in Juba town, which led to the death of hundreds of the innocent elders and women and children.

The statement added that [Cohen] should condemn the infiltration instead of defending the defeated rebellion movement, and hiding the atrocities committed [by] them and the shooting of the civilian aeroplanes and hindering relief operations to the southerners, whom they claim to defend.

The statement said that Cohen [had] made himself a defender of human rights in the African continent. Instead he should condemn the conduct of the mentioned Sudanese citizen who treasoned his country. He should also condemn Garang's movement for its atrocities and violations of human rights by kidnapping thousands of Sudanese children.

The statement affirmed that the mentioned Sudanese citizens [as received] was prosecuted in front of a just court which avail all the means of self-defence for him and was prosecuted according to the country's laws. The statement added that the Sudan's government express its regret for the statements of Cohen and sees in it a clear stance against the Sudan's orientations.

Al-Bashir Meets Chinese Delegation 1 Oct

EA0110213092 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 1 Oct (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, today met the Chinese delegation which is currently visiting the country.

The Chinese deputy minister of communications, who is leading the delegation, said in a press statement that it conveyed the greetings of the Chinese president to Lt. Gen. al-Bashir, adding that the two sides affirmed their desire to strengthen cooperation and the relations between the two countries in the economic and technical fields.

The Chinese deputy minister of communications pointed out that the Chinese Government has decided to give the sum of 50,000,000 Chinese yuan as an interest free loan to Sudan [words indistinct] [passage omitted].

Envoy Affirms Readiness To Talk With Rebels

EA0110105392 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1315 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Mr. Ahmad al-Tijani Salih, Sudan's ambassador in Nigeria, has said that the Sudanese Government is prepared to negotiate with the rebel movement at any time and place specified by the Nigerian Government.

The ambassador confirmed that there can be no bargaining on the issue of Sudan's unity, and he pointed out that the option of federalism meets all the aspirations of the movement and its leaders.

His excellency explained that [John] Garang is in a weakened position and that the African states which support the rebel movement should change their position because Garang's movement has begun to collapse, and he explained that solving the problem peacefully has deprived the movement of all the components of [word indistinct].

Government Reportedly Destroys 13 Rebel Bases

NC2709183492 Paris AFP in English 1759 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 27 (AFP)—Government forces have destroyed 13 rebel bases in the southwestern province of Kordofan, the daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI reported here Sunday.

Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed al-Tayeb Fadul, the military commander of Kadogle, the principal town in southern Kordofan, told the paper that "the rebels are currently suffering from famine, having been forced out of the regions they were using as farms.

"More than 32,000 civilians have left SPLA-controlled regions and are being looked after by the Sudanese government and humanitarian organisations," Fadul said.

The Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA), led by Colonel John Garang, has been on the defensive since a massive government offensive was launched last March.

The rebels have been fighting since 1983 for independence from the northern-based government.

Darfur Court Sentences Two to Death by Hanging

EA2909131292 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Khartoum, 28 September (SUNA)—The general criminal court at (al-Su'ayn), Darfur state, has passed a sentence of execution and crucifixion against the accused Dhu al-Nun al-Tijani. It also passed a sentence of execution by hanging against Bashir Rahmah Ubayd and Hadi Jar al-Na'im. The accused have been charged with inciting war against the state and possessing weapons and ammunition. The case documents have been submitted to the high court for confirmation.

It is worth mentioning that the court earlier ordered the release of Sid Ahmad al-Husayn, the former secretary general of the Democratic Unionist Party, DUP, who also served as deputy prime minister in Sadiq al-Mahdi's government, and others, for lack of evidence.

Opposition Comments on Dismissal of Army Officers

NC2509152292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1440 GMT 25 Sep 92

[Text] Cairo, 25 Sep (MENA)—The Sudanese opposition has described the Sudanese regime's recent decision to dismiss 128 Armed Forces officers as a link in the chain of liquidating the Armed Forces and police officers and replace them with elements loyal to the Islamic Front. Leading figures from the Sudanese opposition stressed that these actions are bound to affect the efficiency and capabilities of the Sudanese Armed Forces and police.

Al-Mu'tasim al-Hakim, member of the political bureau of the Democratic Unionist Party, said that the dismissal of these officers is part of the al-Bashir government's plan, which went into effect on 30 June 1989, to liquidate the Armed Forces and replace them with the Popular Defense Forces. He noted that with this decision, al-Bashir's government has liquidated 37 percent of the Armed Forces' officers since it took power, according to the latest official statistics.

Al-Mu'tasim al-Hakim added: The liquidation is also being done through the deployment of those elements that are not loyal to the ruling regime to the war in the south so that they can be physically liquidated. This war is a losing one because the Sudanese Armed Forces are not qualified for it and do not possess the necessary modern weapons to wage it. He also revealed that some officers have been politically eliminated through deportations and dismissals of those whose loyalty to the Islamic Front is doubted.

Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khalid, member of the Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces, said that the decision to dismiss the Sudanese officers coincided with a strange statement by Islamic Front leader Hasan al-Turabi, in which he said that the regular forces must continue to be liquidated because they are a secular establishment and must be replaced by Islamic forces.

(Magol Ayum), representative of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Sudan in the Middle East region, stressed that the Islamic Front wants to get rid of all patriotic personalities and replace them with its cadres, and also wants to turn the Sudanese Army into an ideological one.

Mahjub Sayyid Ahmad, representative of the Labor Union Grouping of the National Democratic Rally, said that all sectors and bodies of the Sudanese opposition forces condemn the liquidation of the Sudanese Army officers.

Badr-al-Din 'Ali, member of the Sudanese Journalists Union, said that the Islamic Front is concerned about protecting itself and is therefore eager to prevent the Army from undertaking any coup attempt, the last of which took place in Ramadan 1990 and which resulted in the execution of 28 officers. He stressed that this policy of the Islamic Front has forced the Army officers to declare the "I Sudan" Organization [Tanzim Ana al-Sudan] which is the legitimate command of the Sudanese Armed Forces and which is struggling to bring down the Islamic Front.

Kuwait

Prime Minister To Mediate Saudi-Qatari 'Crisis'

NC0210113192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Kuwait, 2 Oct (MENA)—A MENA correspondent in Kuwait has learned that Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, left for Jeddah today for talks with Saudi officials in an attempt to contain the Saudi-Qatari crisis, which erupted over a shooting on the Saudi-Qatari border.

Shaykh Sa'd will later visit Doha as part of his attempt to mediate between the two countries' leaderships.

Information Minister Views Gulf Affairs

NC0210093592 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Sep 92 p 5

[Interview with Kuwaiti Information Minister Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub by Sana' al-Sa'id in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] What do you think about the dispute between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Iran over Abu Musa, especially with the region's circumstances unable to tolerate any worsening of the situation, which ultimately would serve no party's interests?

[Al-Ya'qub] The main objective in emphasizing Arab rights on Abu Musa is that all the Arabs take an interest in preserving and safeguarding the Arab territories from any outside aggression, invasion, or occupation. We hope, particularly right now, that any differences between us and any other country will be resolved peacefully and via diplomatic channels. This would enable each party to achieve its rights and let the UAE regain its sovereignty over the three islands occupied by Iran. We hope, God willing, that this approach will take its course in the right way, preserving security and stability in the region. We also hope that the meeting between Iran and the UAE scheduled for Sunday [27 September] in Abu Dhabi will settle any outstanding dispute between the two countries.

[Al-Sa'id] There is no doubt that the exclusion zones declared by the United States in northern and southern Iraq still raise fears of partition in the region. What is your assessment of the current situation in the region and do you believe partition is on the table?

[Al-Ya'qub] Almost all the Arab states have declared their rejection of the partitioning of Iraq, but to implement the Security Council resolutions and to try to safeguard the Iraqi people from any repression by the Baghdad government, an air exclusion zone had to be declared. A ground exclusion zone for ground troops should have been declared in some Iraqi areas, particularly since the Iraqi regime failed to honor the Security Council resolutions and tortured and killed Iraqi people, whether in the south, north, or center. The Security Council had to take the appropriate measures to prevent Saddam Husayn and his regime from having a free hand over the Iraqi people. The exclusion zones represent the greatest means of protection for the Iraqi people from this regime. I believe partition is out of the question for Iraq because, as we have repeated, nobody wants or accepts partition. We want Iraq to be democratic, to believe in freedom of opinion, to maintain security in the region, to respect the rights of its neighbors, and to respect the Security Council resolutions in every case, including those relating to Kuwait and particularly those concerning the demarcation of the border and the prisoners of war.

[Al-Sa'id] What does the current regional map indicate now that Iraq has been weakened and is no longer effective in the regional balance of power? Don't you agree with me that the lights are focusing on other alternative powers, such as Turkey and Iran, since they are the countries most qualified to fill the resulting vacuum? Are there legitimate fears, especially considering the Iranian ambitions that have already surfaced in the region and Turkey's increasing strategic role?

[Al-Ya'qub] I do not believe there is a vacuum to fill nor do I believe the region is unstable or that such fears are justified. All the Arab countries can defend themselves and all the region's countries can maintain the balance. I also believe that through dialogue, diplomatic channels, and peaceful means, we can achieve a good, constant balance in this region, keeping it out of international and regional struggles.

[Al-Sa'id] Kuwait signed a bilateral security agreement with the United States in November 1991, another one with Britain in February 1992, and a third with France in August 1992. Could there be other bilateral security agreements with a country such as Russia?

[Al-Ya'qub] Kuwait will not hesitate to take any appropriate measure with any party to achieve self-security and to protect its independence and its existence.

[Al-Sa'id] What about the Damascus Declaration countries such as Egypt and Syria? Could bilateral security agreements be concluded with them, since the security aspect of the declaration will only be applied through bilateral agreements? Could this be done soon?

[Al-Ya'qub] The political and economic programs of the Damascus Declaration were agreed on at the recent meeting of the signatory countries in Doha. Security and military affairs were left to bilateral agreements. Kuwait will not hesitate to conclude such bilateral security agreements as soon as we see the time is right for doing so.

[Al-Sa'id] Could the bilateral agreements with foreign countries be temporary or will they last, becoming long term?

[Al-Ya'qub] The agreements concluded with the United States, Britain, and France are temporary. We hope the

Arab nation can achieve self-security soon and protect every Arab country without exception.

[Al-Sa'id] Apparently, it is difficult to have a clear idea about setting up an Arab security nucleus with the Western security presence. This difficulty appeared quite clearly, when Sultan Qabus proposed the formation of a Gulf military force of 100,000 men. In your view, why does the formation of a strong Arab security force appear to be difficult to implement?

[Al-Ya'qub] Not at all. We support Arab and Gulf self-security, but I believe that any decision on this issue must be studied so that its creation is strong and complete. We in the Gulf Cooperation Council accept the need to have a Gulf military force, but translating this into fact has been left to the participating countries. The opportunity is available for a strong Arab security, but this requires study and research.

[Al-Sa'id] The election in Kuwait in a few days time to choose the new National Assembly is regarded as a qualitative step in the democratic process. What is your view?

[Al-Ya'qub] I believe that Kuwait, before and after the election, is the Kuwait of free opinion and democracy. We are preparing for the election. It must be held on schedule, on 5 October. The campaign to elect the next Assembly is continuing. We will achieve security and stability for Kuwait through this Assembly, while strengthening cohesive national unity to protect Kuwait's security, stability, and unity.

Oman

Official Leaves for Yemen To Sign Border Pact

JN0110100392 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0645 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Muscat, 1 Oct (WAKH)—Thuwayni Bin-Shihab, the Omani sultan's personal representative, and his delegation left Muscat today for the Yemeni Republic on an official visit during which he will convey a message from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman to Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Republic's Presidential Council.

During the visit, Thuwayni Bin-Shihab will sign the border agreement between the two countries on behalf of Sultan Qabus.

Official on Border Agreement, Relations With Yemen

JN0110110992 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Muscat, 1 Oct (WAKH)—Fahd Bin-Mahmud Al Sa'id, Omani deputy prime minister for legal affairs, has said that relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Yemen are proceeding along the right path. He added that the border agreement between the two countries comes as part of the fruitful efforts made by Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. In a statement cited by the OMANI NEWS AGENCY today, he said that the agreement is within the framework of the good fraternal bilateral relations and the efforts made by both countries' officials to establish relations on solid grounds to serve the aspirations of the two peoples.

The Omani deputy prime minister added that the time taken to prepare this agreement was necessary to consolidate the convictions of both sides. He said that the border agreement between the two countries is evidence of both sides' good intentions, adding that this is a civilized method to pave the way for positive cooperation in all fields.

His highness stressed that the agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Yemen will help to reinforce stability in the region in light of the successive changes in the international arena. All world countries endeavor to achieve this objective.

Fahd Al Sa'id noted that Oman is eager to see understanding and cooperation prevail among the regional states to promote stability and prosperity.

Saudi Arabia

Government Reacts to Qatari Border Conflict

Severing of Treaty Rejected

LD0110145592 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1423 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Jeddah, 1 Oct (SPA)—An official source today gave a statement to SPA which states:

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has examined with great surprise the content of the statement issued by the Qatari Council of Ministers in its extraordinary session convened this morning, in which the state of Qatar announced its decision to sever [iqaf al-'amal bi] the border agreement concluded between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the state of Qatar in 1965.

The source added: "On the basis of the contents of the aforementioned Qatari statement, and starting from the bases and observed principles of international treaties, the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announces its absolute rejection of the Qatari unilateral decision to sever the aforementioned agreement. The Kingdom considers the border agreement concluded between the two countries in 1965 as binding on the two sides, where none of its articles could be breached."

Border Post Takeover Denied

LD0210013992 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2320 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Jeddah, 1 Oct, (SPA)—An official source tonight told the Saudi Press Agency [SPA] the following:

Qatar Radio this evening broadcast a statement by an official source at the Qatar Armed Forces General Command, in which he said that a Saudi military force had at 1800 today, Thursday, besieged a Qatari post and forced its occupants to leave.

The contents of this statement are, in fact, absolutely untrue.

The source added: we feel deep regret, mixed with surprise, for all the communiques and statements emanating from our Qatari brothers, which we do not consider to be serving the common interests of the two fraternal countries and peoples, nor do they agree with the deep and strong fraternal ties that have linked the Kingdom and the State of Qatar for decades and all through the generations of fathers and forefathers.

The source said: Incidental events that might from time to time be caused by irresponsible elements, from either side, and which are far removed from the official domain of either state, should not be elevated to a level that would affect the deep ties and the strong links distinguishing the two states, and for which all Arab Gulf Cooperation Council states are distinguished and of which they have been proud since early times.

We, in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as is well known, are fully observant of good-neighborliness and of the security of the realm. We have always striven to deal with matters by amicable and agreeable means, and we, God willing, will never deviate from this genuine Arab Islamic approach as long as we are able to, and in such a manner that would safeguard rights and preserve security and stability so that our peoples will enjoy prosperity and continue their march toward development, progress, and well-being.

Sa'ud al-Faysal Meets Algerian, ICO Officials

LD3009210592 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2130 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] New York, 30 Sep (SPA)—His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister and head of the Kingdom's delegation to the UN General Assembly meetings, met in New York today with His Excellency Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, the Algerian foreign minister, and with His Excellency Mr. Habib Ben Yahya, the Tunisian foreign minister. His Highness also met with Mr. Hamid Algabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization. Viewpoints on issues of common interest were exchanged at these meetings.

Qatar

Saudi Forces Reportedly Seize Border Post

NC0110172692 Paris AFP in English 1720 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Doha, Oct 1 (AFP) - Saudi forces on Thursday seized the Qatari border post that was the scene of an armed clash the previous day, the QATAR NEWS AGENCY (QNA) reported.

An Army spokesman, quoted by QNA, said a "large Saudi military force" circled and forced the border guards to abandon the post in a disputed border zone of southeastern Qatar.

The guards did not open fire on the "Saudi assailants" to avoid bloodshed, the spokesman said.

Council Issues Statement on 'Saudi Aggression'

LD0110164392 Doha Radio Qatar in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, deputy emir and heir apparent, chaired an extraordinary meeting of the Council of Ministers at the Emiri Diwan offices at 1000 today to discuss the Saudi aggression that took place yesterday at the Qatari al-Khafus border post.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Council of Ministers issued a statement. Here is the text of the statement:

The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary meeting to discuss the Saudi aggression that took place yesterday against the Qatari al-Khafus border post which resulted in the martyrdom of two members of the Qatari Armed Forces; a third one was taken prisoner.

His Highness the deputy emir and heir apparent and defence minister briefed the Council of Ministers on the circumstances of the incident, which took place without any justification, and which is considered a grave precedent in Qatari-Saudi relations in particular, and those between the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] member states in general.

After reviewing the subject from all its aspects, the Council of Ministers decided to sever [Iqaf al-'amal] the border agreement between the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia signed in 1965. The definitive demarcation of the border between the two states has not yet taken place as provided for under the terms of this agreement, especially its Articles 3 and 5.

The council has also taken into consideration the fact that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has been recently seeking to unilaterally demarcate borders between the two countries, contrary to the provisions of the agreement in question, and it has not responded to the repeated requests by the State of Qatar for the holding of talks for this purpose. The Council of Ministers called for the need to enter into negotiations between the two countries as soon as possible to agree on, and demarcate, the definitive borders between the two states. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Says Abu Musa 'Regrettable'

NC3009170992 Paris AFP in English 1625 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Excerpts] United Nations, Sept 30 (AFP)—Qatar on Wednesday urged the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and

Iran to resolve their dispute over three islands in the Gulf through peaceful means. [passage omitted]

The dispute over the islands of Abu Musa and Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra erupted last month when the UAE accused Iran of taking over the whole of Abu Musa in violation of a 1971 agreement that it should be shared.

Iran claims that it made a secret agreement with Britain in 1971 to abandon its claim to Bahrain in exchange for the whole of Abu Musa and the two other islands, which are located near the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

"We find it very regrettable that at this historic stage which our region is passing such a dispute will arise between two neighbours," Qatar Foreign Minister Shaykh Hamad Bin Jasim Bin Jabir Al Thani told the U.N. General Assembly.

Expressing "deep concern" for the "stability of the region" the Qatar minister added: "We believe that the solution of this dispute should be achieved by peaceful means through dialogue or by recourse to a judicial solution."

The UAE foreign minister was due to address the General Assembly later Wednesday, a day after the UAE called for U.N. mediation in its dispute with Iran over the islands.

Iran responded with a warning that the dispute could open a Pandora's box of territorial claims in the Gulf.

Yemen

Saudi Guarantees Sought Ahead of Border Agreement

NC0110171592 Paris AFP in English 1615 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Excerpt] Riyadh, Oct 1 (AFP)—Yemen is seeking an interim agreement with Saudi Arabia to consolidate their bilateral ties ahead of the end of negotiations to resolve a border dispute, Yemeni diplomatic sources said Thursday.

The proposal made by Yemen was aimed at "guaranteeing the rights and interests of the two parties as they wait for the end of the negotiations," on a decades-old dispute involving oil-rich areas, one source said. [passage omitted]

Border Agreement Signed With Oman 1 Oct

JN0110142792 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Excerpts] The Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Yemen signed the international border agreement, praise be to God, in Sanaa today. The agreement was signed on behalf of his Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id [of Oman] by His Highness Thuwayni Bin-Shihab, the personal representative of his majesty the sultan. On behalf of His Excellency Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Yemeni Republic's Presidential Council, the agreement was signed by Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakir al-'Attas. [passage omitted]

His Excellency Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received His Highness Thuwayni Bin-Shihab at the Presidential Palace in Sanaa at noon today. At the meeting, his highness delivered a message to the Yemeni president from His Majesty Sultan Qabus dealing with the bolstering of fraternal bilateral cooperation. [passage omitted]

In a statement following the meeting, His Excellency Lt. Gen. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih expressed his thanks to and appreciation for His Majesty Sultan Qabus and other Omani officials for the fraternal spirit and continuous cooperation realized as the Yemeni-Omani border dispute was worked out.

His excellency also expressed pleasure upon receiving His Highness Thuwayni Bin-Shihab and his delegation. The Yemeni president said the dialogue conducted over the past few days has been amicable and sincere, and the Omanis and Yemenis have been working as a single team. He added that we have reached satisfactory results and expressed hope that all border problems between all brothers in the Arab world will be overcome through the same spirit that we have experienced together. [passage omitted]

Omani Official Comments in Sanaa

JN0110183692 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Excerpts] His Highness Thuwayni Bin-Shihab, personal representative of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, left Sanaa this evening after a brief visit to our country during which he conveyed a message to Presidential Council Chairman brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id on the border agreement signed between the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

In a statement to SABA' before leaving, His Highness Thuwayni Bin-Sa'id, personal representative of His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman, expressed his thanks and appreciation to Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Council of Ministers, stressing that the signing of the border agreement is considered an historic event and the great result of efforts to prepare for the agreement that was signed today. He also praised steps taken during the negotiations and affirmed that it would open up new horizons for future contacts and cooperation [words indistinct].

Opposition Aims To Speed Up Saddam's Overthrow

NC0110160092 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Sayyid Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has said that the Iraqi opposition efforts will, from now on, seek to speed up the overthrow of Saddam's regime. This was the first and foremost goal of the meeting held by the opposition factions last week, he said, adding: The second goal was to coordinate and steer the collective efforts of the Iraqi opposition toward a common goal.

His Eminence added: The United States and the Europeans should not get involved in resistance activities so the resistance can maintain its credibility.

Opposition Reportedly Planning Military Command

NC0110170392 Paris AFP in English 1605 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Tehran, Oct 1 (AFP)—The Iraqi opposition, at its second meeting in the Kurdish-held north in as many months, plans to set up a joint military command, a Shiite opposition group said Thursday.

The Iran-based Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said the congress on October 23 in the city of Irbil also aimed to a form a three-man presidential leadership.

The congress of 174 opposition representatives would designate a national assembly in waiting of between 75 and 100 members, SAIRI official Mohammad al-Haydari told a Tehran press conference.

Haydari, who attended preparatory talks last month in Iraqi Kurdistan, rejected criticism from hardline Shiite Muslim fundamentalist groups which have described the meetings to unite the opposition as a U.S. ploy.

"There are problems at the moment between (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn and the United States. We should take advantage of this situation," he said, adding that latest developments were "very favourable for the opposition."

Al-Haydari said the Irbil congress would also decide on the call from the non-Arab Kurds for a federation in a future democratic Iraq. The Kurds, he said, had "shown flexibility on this question."

But Kurdish leaders have publicly insisted on federation, a proposal which has aroused little enthusiasm from Sunni and Shiite Arabs in the opposition.

SAIRI leader Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir al-Hakim has said all the groups at last month's talks "underlined their commitment to the unity of Iraq and not to the idea of a federated state."

Regime Said Planning 'Annihilation' in al-Basrah

NC0110160892 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] The ostracized regime intends to carry out mass annihilation operations against the residents of al-Basrah Governorate. According to opposition sources, armored units are now deployed extensively from the al-'Ashshar area as far as the (Jirmat 'Ali) area.

The same sources added that the regime's action involves more than 250 tanks and noted that some of the tyrant regime's infantry brigades in the meantime have been deployed in and around the city of al-Basrah, close to the offices of the regime's authorities. Patrols and barricades manned by members of the regime's oppressive authorities are now deployed in the streets of al-'Ashshar [words indistinct] areas, where emergency measures are being applied and extensive arrests of citizens conducted.

'Hundreds of Fugitives' Surrender to Tribal Chiefs

JN3009095892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 30 Sep (INA)—Hundreds of fugitives who were deceived by the enemies of great Iraq have surrendered themselves to the tribal chiefs in al-Qurnah District, al-Basrah Governorate.

In statements to AL-JUMHURIYAH published today, Shaykh Sabah 'Armash al-Maliki, chief of the Bani Malik tribe, said hundreds of fugitives from various governorates have taken advantage of the president's pardon to anyone who gives himself up to al-Qurnah District's tribal chiefs. [passage omitted]

Regime Forces Attack Peshmerga Positions

NC3009190092 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] On 29 September the regime forces shelled peshmerga positions in the (Dawda) area in Tuz for 25 minutes. The peshmergas did not suffer any casualties from the hostile shelling.

A force consisting of the regime's forces and mercenaries attacked peshmerga positions in the (Nawjul) area this morning, 30 September. The peshmergas confronted it and forced it to retreat. The regime forces then shelled the area for 30 minutes.

Popular Forces Kill Ba'th Official, Ambush Patrol

NC2709160192 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Our sources in Baghdad said a group of the popular forces, in response to the oppressive practices of the regime, last week carried out an operation targeting a responsible official of the party in power in al-'Ubadi

district. They succeeded in killing him and destroying the car he occupied. He is the commander of a division.

Another popular group ambushed a special security detachment in al-Rashidiyah district in Baghdad, killing three and injuring a fourth.

Officers Fired in Feud Between 2 Clans

PM2909095392 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Sep 92 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Group of Iraqi Officers Dismissed"]

[Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau—Well-informed political sources in the Jordanian capital of Amman have said that a group of Republican Guard officers belonging to the al-Juburi family in Iraq were dismissed following a problem that occurred in the north of the country, especially in Mosul.

The sources, which are close to the Iraqi Government, emphasized that the al-Juburi family had demanded the handover of a murderer from the al-Tikriti family, that is, Saddam Husayn's family, who had killed an al-Juburi family member.

The sources said that several deals took place with the family but produced nothing, and, as a result, unrest spread among Republican Guard officers belonging to the family, which alarmed official Iraqi authorities, and the officers were dismissed immediately.

The sources added that some al-Juburi family members immediately went to Kurdish areas for fear of being harassed by the Iraqi Army.

The sources pointed out that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had offered his son 'Udayy as a replacement for the murderer in a bid to silence the al-Juburi family. But the family realized it was just a diplomatic ploy designed to get it to relinquish its right to punish the murderer. So the al-Juburi family insisted on rejecting Saddam Husayn's offer and demanded that the original murderer be punished.

At another level members in the Security Council are discussing a resolution which Washington believes will lead to financing the inspection operations and humanitarian missions conducted by the United Nations in Iraq with hundreds of billions of dollars from frozen Iraqi assets.

Saddam Chairs Ba'th Party Military Bureau Meeting

JN3009100292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Sep (INA)—Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has chaired a meeting for members of the Ba'th Party's Military Bureau Command.

The meeting was attended by Staff General 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and Kamil Yasin Rashid, member of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party and deputy secretary of the Military Bureau Command.

Saddam Receives 'Loyalty' Cable From Jordan

JN2809195292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable pledging loyalty from the dignitaries and tribal sons of al-Salt city in fraternal Jordan. In the cable, they strongly denounced the malicious conspiracy being implemented by criminal Bush and his two allies, Britain and France, which aims to divide Iraq and undermine its solid unity.

Following is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency unique Arab Leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect you. The dignitaries and tribal sons of al-Salt city in Jordan denounce the conspiracy of dividing Iraq and the unjust blockade being imposed by colonialist-Zionist forces, led by accursed criminal Bush, against the Iraq of Arab glory, manliness, and pride.

While putting themselves at the disposal of your wise leadership, the dignitaries and tribal sons of al-Salt pledge to God and the sons of our heroic Iraqi Arab people to offer both what is cheap and precious in defense of Iraq's sacred soil, which is baptized with the blood of its righteous martyrs.

The unity of the land of Iraq and its Arab people is the unity of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Meets Officials in New York

Briefs Cuban, PRC on 'U.S. Plan'

JN2609063492 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met separately with the Cuban and PRC foreign ministers in New York yesterday. He also met with Yuliy Vorontsov, the Russian permanent UN representative.

Sources in the Iraqi delegation to the UN General Assembly meeting told an INA correspondent in New York that the foreign minister discussed with Cuban Minister of Foreign Relations Ricardo Alarcon the topics on the UN agenda, especially issues related to Iraq.

The sources added that the foreign minister briefed his Cuban and PRC counterparts on Iraq's position on these issues, focusing on the U.S. plan regarding Iraqi funds frozen abroad, as well as Iraq's proposals regarding oil negotiations with the United Nations and the UN's activities in Iraq.

The Cuban and PRC foreign ministers affirmed to Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf that their countries sympathize with the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Confers With Butrus-Ghali

JN2909193892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] United Nations, 29 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Ghali today. This is the second meeting al-Sahhaf has held with the UN secretary general during his current visit to the United Nations.

The foreign minister told an INA correspondent that he discussed with the UN secretary general several issues of joint interest.

Meets Qaddumi, Abu-Jabir

JN2909093392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0818 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] United Nations, 29 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met separately in New York yesterday with the foreign ministers of Palestine and Jordan. The talks with Faruq Qaddumi and Kamil Abu-Jabir dealt with the Arab issues on the agenda of the 47th session of the UN General Assembly, as well as Iraq's stands on the related issues discussed at the Security Council.

Confers With Arab League Chief

JN0110105892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1037 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] The United Nations, 1 Oct (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf last night met with Arab League Secretary General 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

The foreign minister told INA correspondent in New York that the meeting was held to follow up the fruitful cooperation between Iraq and the Arab League Secretariat.

He added that he discussed with the Arab League secretary general the coordination of efforts to face the unjust blockade imposed on the people of Iraq.

On his part, Arab League Secretary General stressed that efforts will continue in that regard to lift the blockade.

Sudanese, Hungarian Visitors Meet Hammadi

JN0110185192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Oct (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi has affirmed that the main objective of the anti-Iraq aggression and the malicious conspiracies being hatched against Iraq by imperialism, Zionism, and their allies is to weaken Iraq and cripple its pan-Arab role and thus promote colonialist interests in the region and control its riches and oil resources.

During a meeting today with Dr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Al, secretary general of the National Organization for Culture and Arts in fraternal Sudan, and his accompanying delegation, the culture and information minister reviewed the conspiracies hatched against Iraq, including the schemes concocted by colonialist powers, imperialism, reactionary forces, and Arab traitors to strike at Iraq's renaissance and control its people's resources and their cultural edifice, which has become an example to be emulated by the Arab nation's masses.

For his part, Dr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Al renewed the Sudanese people's solidarity with, and total support for, the Iraqi people in their struggle and confrontation against the hostile conspiracies aimed at undermining their sovereignty and security and encroaching on the Arab nation's dignity. He also expressed the Sudanese people's pride in the courageous leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, which restored to the Arab masses their self-confidence as well as their faith in their legitimate right to sovereignty and independence.

Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi today also met with Alberto Yatosh [name as received], leader of the World Federation of Hungarians.

During their meeting, the culture and information minister reviewed the hostile conspiracies hatched against Iraq during the glorious battle of Saddam's al-Qadisiyah [Iran-Iraq war] and also during the historic showdown manifested in the eternal Mother of Battles, affirming the importance of the role world organizations and parties can play in supporting people struggling to uphold their just causes and expose and bare the objectives of the hostile media, which are controlled by the forces of imperialism and Zionism. These media, the minister added, seek to undermine Iraq's honorable image and its just cause.

The minister affirmed that on a daily basis the Arab nation provides, through the struggles being waged by its honorable sons, cogent evidence showing that the strength of principles and faith are stronger than the might and resources of the aggressive powers, which were mobilized to crush Iraqi and Arab will through their outrageous aggression on Iraq.

For his part, Alberto Yatosh, leader of the World Federation of Hungarians, affirmed that he will, upon his return home, expose the lies being propagated by Western media against Iraq and its people, noting that Western media misrepresent facts and withhold information from the people of the world to achieve the West's designs against the Iraqi people.

Assembly Speaker, Hungarian Visitor Discuss U.S.

JN0110165192 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih today received (Alberto Yatosh), leader of the World Federation of Hungarians, who is currently visiting Iraq.

During the meeting, Sa'di Mahdi Salih noted the importance of the role peace-loving nations can play in intensifying endeavors to create an international coalition to

confront the colonialist policy being led by the United States under the guise of upholding the so-called new world order.

The National Assembly speaker added: Now that the United States is unilaterally dictating world policies and pursuing malicious methods to control the peoples' resources and plunder their riches and wealth, the failure to create such a coalition would largely jeopardize peoples' freedom and free will.

The National Assembly speaker expressed his absolute confidence that the political developments witnessed in socialist countri.s have enabled the United States and its allies to dominate people of the world in a manner so as to realize their illegitimate ambitions. He added that the colonialist West was not content with robbing these people of their free will, freedom, and independence; rather, it has also sought to prevent them from creating any kind of cooperation among themselves to weaken and tear them apart—a fact which shows the lack of goodwill on the West's part with regard to its policies toward those nations which cherish peace, security, and freedom.

Sa'di Mahdi Salih reiterated Iraq's desire to establish international relations based on joint interests and mutual benefits, away from foreign pressure or intervention to undermine Iraq's security, sovereignty, and legitimate interests.

For his part, (Alberto Yatosh), leader of the World Federation of Hungarians, paid tribute to the Iraqi people's courageous positions and to their rallying around their leadership during the confrontation of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression. He added that this reflects an honorable patriotic stand that is not alien to the people of Mesopotamia, who have a history and a civilization known to the entire world. He continued: The Iraqi people's self-confidence and the great audacity with which they confronted the aggression have continued to elicit the awe and admiration of the world, particularly the Hungarian people.

(Alberto Yatosh) concluded by saying: The Hungarian people highly value the Iraqi people and their courageous leadership, which confronted the imperialist aggression led by the United States, which used all conceivable means during its aggression on Iraq.

Prime Minister Receives Jordanian Paper Editor

JN3009125092 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Prime Minister Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi today received Jihad al-Mumani, chief editor of the Jordanian paper SHIHAN.

The prime minister reviewed the consequences of the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic aggression and the unjust blockade against the people of Iraq, the Iraqi people's steadfastness in the face of the imperialist-Zionist schemes, and the Iraqi-Arab and Iraqi-Iranian relations.

The prime minister also discussed the dimensions of the new construction campaign in Iraq and the giant development projects, including the Saddam River, the irrigation plans for al-Jazirah and al-Najaf, and the Leader's Allegiance project.

Ramadan Returns From 'Brief Visit' to Jordan

JN3009120192 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, Revolution Command Council member, and vice president, has returned to Baghdad following a brief visit to fraternal Jordan.

In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said his visit to fraternal Jordan was made at President Saddam Husayn's instructions to convey his excellency's greetings to His Majesty King Husayn and to congratulate him on his successful surgery and safe return to his family and people.

The vice president added that during the audience with his majesty he conveyed President Saddam Husayn's greetings and congratulations, as well as the best wishes of his excellency, on his own behalf and on behalf of the leadership and people of Iraq, to his brother His Majesty King Husayn and to the government and people of fraterna! Jordan.

The vice president said: King Husayn has asked me to convey warm greetings to his brother President Saddam Husayn and his deep gratitude for his excellency's kind gesture and for his constant contacts to enquire about his majesty's health. His majesty also asked me to convey to President Saddam Husayn his best wishes for good health and happiness, and to the great people of Iraq of continued progress and prosperity. He also expressed satisfaction with the strong brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries.

Health Minister, Delegation Leave for Alexandria

JN2909161792 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1355 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Sep (INA)—An Iraqi health delegation under Health Minister Dr. Umid Midhat Mubarak headed for Alexandria today to participate in the 39th session of the East Mediterranean regional committee which will be held there on 3 October. The five-day

meetings will be attended by delegations from 21 Arab and foreign states, and will discuss a number of topics on health issues of interest to regional states. They will also discuss the effect of civilization on health, extensive vaccinations, maternal and infant mortality rates, and animal-originated diseases.

'Abd-al-Ghafur-Led Delegation Returns From Yemen

JN2909113892 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 29 sep (INA)—'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau, and the accompanying delegation have returned to Baghdad after participating in the fraternal Yemeni people's celebrations on the glorious 26 September revolution. [passage omitted]

Group of Deportees From Kuwait Arrives at Border

JN3009174392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Sep (INA)—A total of 334 citizens deported by the authorities in Kuwait arrived at the Safwan border area in al-Basrah Governorate this evening.

An INA correspondent in al-Basrah Governorate reported that among the deportees were 86 Iraqi and Arab nationals who were detained in Kuwaiti prisons for more than a year without trial.

The deportees noted that thousands of people are still in Kuwaiti prisons despite efforts by the International Red Cross to release them.

Syria Cancels al-Shar'-Peres Meeting Over Remark

TA0210092392 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 2 Oct 92 p 1

[Report by Hana Qim]

[Text] A planned meeting between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar', which had received the approval of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, was called off by the Syrians. They were angered over Rabin calling Dumas' trip to Damascus "drivel."

The foreign minister's close aides claim that Peres did not have time to brief Rabin on having received an affirmative answer from al-Asad to the meeting with al-Shar'. That was why Rabin's response was seen by the Syrians as an unwillingness to hold the historic meeting.

Officials on Chance of Rabin-al-Asad Meeting

Peres Calls for Meeting

TA0110162892 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Several minutes ago, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres ended his speech before the UN General Assembly in New York. Our correspondent Aharon Lapidot is on the telephone line from New York to report about it:

Speaking from the UN Assembly podium, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres called on Syrian leader al-Asad to lay aside all of his inhibitions and hold a face-to-face meeting with Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Peres said that the leaders of both countries, Israel and Syria, must meet. Referring indirectly to the Syrian formula of total peace for total withdrawal, Peres said: We have made it clear that UN Resolutions 242 and 338 include a territorial aspect, along with other components of peace and security that have to be equally respected.

A single set of negotiations should not be linked with or chained to processes of other and different negotiations held with other Arab countries, Peres said. He therefore indirectly called on Syria to hold separate negotiations with Israel.

Peres offered the Palestinians a timetable instead of drawing a map which cannot be agreed upon today anyway.

Rabin Says at 'Later Date'

TA0110172392 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Report on address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to Labor Knesset faction by Ge'ula Even at Labor headquarters in Tel Aviv on 1 October]

[Text] In the wake of reports that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin wants to meet now with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Rabin made it clear that from his point of view a summit meeting is very desirable, but at a later date.

[Begin Rabin recording] I believe that at the moment the focus must be on the negotiations between the delegations. It is inconceivable that a peace treaty could be reached without acceptance by the Israeli public and the Arab states, or more specifically, the Syrian people. Therefore, we must first close the gap between the delegations in the ongoing negotiating process. When this happens, it must be concluded at the highest possible echelons. It does not look as though that will happen in the coming month or two. Therefore, all the talk about a summit meeting now is premature because the reality of the negotiations is that they are still not ready for it. [end recording]

Al-Asad, the prime minister stressed, has not made the significant step taken by al-Sadat and has not come to Jerusalem. I believe he has moved in the direction of peace, but it is still not enough. We must wait patiently, Rabin said, and continue the negotiations without digressing from the positions we adopted from the start.

Rabin also dealt with the negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. He said that toward the end of the round of Washington talks, some progress was made in the negotiations with the Palestinians. I believe, the prime minister said, that if we also show patience here, within six months to a year we will be able to point to significant achievements in the peace negotiations with the Palestinians.

Peres: No Chance of Adopting Syrian View of 242

TA0210063292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says the trouble with the Syrians is that they want Israel to adopt Damascus' interpretation of UN Resolution 242. Speaking to Israeli reporters at the General Assembly opening in New York, Peres called the Syrian approach stupid and said there is no chance Israel would adopt the Syrian interpretation of the Security Council resolution. On the other hand, Peres said the negotiations with the Syrians are not stalled and that while in the past the talks amounted to no more than monologues on the two sides, now there is a dialogue and the true differences of opinion are being dealt with.

Arab Team Asked To Pass Greetings to King Husayn

JN0110191792 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] The prime minister's office announced today that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has personally approved the travel to Jordan of a delegation of Israeli Arab figures to congratulate King Husayn on his recovery.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem says that President Hayim Herzog asked Shafa 'Amr Mayor Ibrahim Nimr Husayn to convey his personal congratulations to King Husayn.

The delegation, led by Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, will leave for Jordan tomorrow.

Our correspondent says that Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi and writer Ahmad Darwish have apologized to the Jordanian Government for the fact that they are unable to travel to Amman tomorrow for personal reasons.

Commander Comments on Hizballah, Lebanon, Syria

TA0110182892 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Interview with Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Northern Command, by Salman al-Tawil and Dani Levi—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Al-Tawil] General Mordekhay, are we witnessing another escalation on our northern border?

[Mordekhay] We are witnessing an ongoing attempt by Hizballah and other terror organizations to attack the security zone and our northern border. There was some slowdown in terror activity in September, which was a direct result of the failures the terrorists had suffered, the success our forces scored, and the Lebanese elections. I assume this is also connected with the peace process and negotiations held at the same time. We believe that after the elections, the terrorist activity would pick up again, and indeed, over the past several weeks it has. This activity peaked on the morning of 29 September, when a large group of Hizballah men, several dozens, attacked an SLA [South Lebanese Army] post. At the same time, they shelled many SLA posts with artillery, mortar, and katyusha shells. Two katyusha rockets even landed near the border.

[Levi] Could this take us back to the days of katyushas on Qiryat Shemona?

[Mordekhay] Let me finish my previous answer and add that despite this extensive attack and the attempt to overtake a relatively remote SLA post, Hizballah failed, could not take the post, and its men were chased away leaving bodies behind. The SLA performed remarkably. Despite the fact that the SLA post commander and his deputy were killed, and although the soldiers chased the fleeing Hizballah terrorists, they managed to keep the post. This shows the terrorists that despite the fact that their attack was well orchestrated and preplanned—using a diversion and a variety of means—eventually they suffered a defeat and did not attain their goal.

[Al-Tawil] Still, does the scope of the attack not indicate a new phase in Hizballah activity? Could this be an attempt to occupy territories in the security zone? Does this worry the Northern Command?

[Mordekhay] No, we have witnessed such attempts in the past, some were even more successful than this. Just the contrary; the SLA success today shows its ability to fight back, and its fine training by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and others, which allows it to withstand a coordinated and relatively strong attack by the Hizballah.

[Al-Tawil] Could it be that in view of its success in the Lebanese elections, Hizballah now has aspired to attack more? I heard one of their leaders say that they received a mandate to carry more attacks and even free the security zone.

[Mordekhay] First we need to carefully study the meaning of the Lebanese elections. The elections were just held, and only 50 percent of eligible voters took part in them. We know that they were far from democratic. Indeed, Hizballah has eight parliament members and an additional four affiliated with Hizballah who are not Shi'ites, thus totaling 12 members, which is quite a large number. The effect of Hizballah election to the Lebanese Parliament will have to be studied in the next weeks and months. We should wait and see whether their becoming part of the establishment will moderate their activities or exacerbate it. In any event, I have no doubt that Hizballah will not be able to attain its goals by force. If it tries, it will suffer losses, and a humiliating defeat as a Lebanese political body and as a terror organization that tries to attack the security zone and Israel in the name of terror.

[Al-Tawil] Is it still the most dominant military element in south Lebanon? After all, it still scores successes here and there, and the IDF cannot totally prevent its terrorist activity.

[Mordekhay] It is the largest terror organization in Lebanon, but it is not the only one. There are many other terror groups operating in Lebanon, some of which operate against us from Lebanon and south Lebanon, aiming at the security zone and, I believe, beyond it as well. When fighting terror, occasionally we hurt and they score, but the bottom line for the past several months—starting 15 July until this day—was 17 dead terrorists and not a single conquest on their part. Unfortunately, sometimes we have to pay a price. Over the past year, during our diverse activities in the security zone and in protecting the northern settlements, we lost seven Israeli and 10 SLA soldiers. I would like to take this opportunity to express my condolences to the grieving families. Nevertheless, all those who tried to attack the security zone have found it more stable. The security zone is facing one of its most complex times, but it does its duty.

[Levi] Hizballah again fired katyushas at Israel and even used Sagger missiles. Should the IDF assume that Hizballah might again fire katyushas at the Galilee?

[Mordekhay] They fired katyushas at the north in February 1991. Then, they realized that using such means

will be followed up by our operation, using assets that hurt them badly. They have decided that such activity is not worth their while. I cannot say whether they aimed at the northern settlements. They fired at one of our posts, and two rockets fell near the border fence. I would not suggest we draw conclusions about their defined goals from this incident. At the same time, if Hizballah or those supporting it—those who stand by it and help it—uses means it has at its disposal and aims at our northern settlements and border, it would have to face the consequences. We will find the ways to deal with it and prevent this phenomena from recurring.

[Levi] Does the recent use of Sagger missiles by the Hizballah constitute a rise in the level of its activity against Israel?

[Mordekhay] I do not know what your question refers to. We are examining a single and isolated incident, featured in several headlines, to which I would rather not refer. We know that the terror organizations in Lebanon have an arsenal that includes arms of Western and Eastern origin and of various types. If they use certain assets against us, we will know how to respond and we will hit back with double force. We have no business exacerbating confrontation in the security zone and Lebanon. Lebanon has a sovereign leadership and an army. It is the duty of that administration and army to take action to prevent activity against south Lebanon, the security zone, and Israel from inside Lebanon. We will take action against that body which operates from there—under the auspices, the agreement, and through the non-prevention, of and by the administration—and we know how to do it. In any event, the administration and army must take the necessary action to prevent terrorists from operating against us from within its territory.

[Al-Tawil] Gen. Mordekhay, following debriefings you hold on whatever happens there, could you detect Syrian guidance or instruction?

[Mordekhay] I cannot point at who precisely is supporting or aiding them, but if I examine the days when terror activity was low, I can assume that when Hizballah, Lebanon, and perhaps even Syria had an interest in limiting terrorism, the level of activity against us was almost zero. I see no signs of the Syrians or the Lebanese administration attempting to prevent terror activity. I cannot prove active or other moves. I can see that no preemptive activity is taken to prevent these bodies from operating. It is inconceivable that dozens of terrorists, with mortars and katyushas, organize and launch such an attack without anyone in the Lebanese Government or elements supporting it knowing something about it. Obviously, they did not prevent this operation.

[Levi] Is there an Iranian involvement?

[Mordekhay] Over the years, and most recently, there has been Iranian penetration into Lebanon. The motivations for that are religious, and I would guess also terrorist. Importing Khomeyni-inspired religious-terrorist ideology into Lebanon and the Shi'ite communities there constitutes a threat. I should not speak of the Shiites in generalities, I speak of the Hizballah. The Shiites in south Lebanon—inside and out of the security zone—are Lebanese citizens, and we have a high interest in living in peace with them, in mutual trust and respect. If those terrorists are stopped in terms of employing their assets against us, I assume we could find common ground for neighborly relations with the Shi'ites in all of south Lebanon, not just the security zone.

[Levi] General, I would like to repeat my question: Do the Syrians allow the flow of arms and Iranian funds to the Hizballah?

[Mordekhay] I repeat: I cannot prove any such activity. Nevertheless, the direct and indirect control over Lebanon and its government is, as is known, in the hands of Syria. We do not detect any prevention regarding this activity. Since there is no preventive activity, it can be assumed that the arms are flowing from somewhere into Lebanon. No one is stopping that, and hence the terrorists and their assets get very close to the security zone and operate against us.

[Levi] Do the Syrians allow Hizballah to train in bases placed under Syrian control.

[Mordekhay] I repeat again: I have no way to positively prove a direct Syrian involvement. We are conducting a political dialogue with the Syrians, and I would suggest that we do not get dragged—despite ourselves—into an irrelevant issue. The Syrians are in control of Lebanon. I cannot prove direct activity, but I do not see any preventive action. I would stress that since terrorist activity is taking place from inside Lebanon against Israeli territory, the terrorists and their assets come from outside Lebanon and are used against us.

[Al-Tawil] How should the IDF deal with such Hizballah activity: Should it employ the scorched earth method; should it carry out a limited operation beyond the security zone and return; or some other way?

[Mordekhay] Following the instructions of the chief of staff, the prime minister and defense minister, the IDF conducts necessary activity to sustain security along the northern border and in the security zone. Naturally, the IDF finds, and will find in the future, the ways to deal with any threat and terror activity launched against the security zone, the IDF, the SLA, South Lebanon's residents, and naturally our northern border. It should be remembered that the security zone is an essential component in the protection of our northern settlements.

[Levi] Perhaps the IDF deployment in the security zone should be changed?

[Mordekhay] Our current deployment and activity yields results. One need only look at the past weeks and last year, with all the changes that took place since I assumed the post of commander of Northern Command. With all

the changes that occurred in the Middle East, the attempts by extreme terror organizations to torpedo the peace process—trying anything to drag the IDF into a confrontation which we believe is undesirable—have failed. The IDF has found the right way to deal with terrorists, prevent their successes, and on the other hand and no less important, manage not to exacerbate the situation and avoid—as much as it is possible—hurting innocent people. We are in the midst of a long-range process. We seek a neighborly and communal life with Lebanon, our northern neighbor. Our activity, therefore, stems primarily from the need to sustain the security and protection of the northern settlements and the security zone, and to later find the ways that would not foil or disturb normal life in the security zone, as far as it is possible.

[Al-Tawil] Does the SLA follow this guidance?

[Mordekhay] The SLA with the IDF, operating as a single unit, shares our goals to protect the security zone and prevent terror against it. After all, the main activity of the terrorists was recently aimed at the SLA which, with the help of the local residents and the IDF, prevented them from succeeding, from carrying out their desires and intentions. In any way I examine the statistics, I see success in reducing the level of activity of those operating against us. Occasionally, there is some local rise in the level of the activity, but we will have to seek the appropriate answer in every way. I suggest that we not rush, that we be wise and keep in mind the interests of our national security, distinguishing the things that serve Israel's security interests from those that do not. In no way will terrorists or extreme elements drag us into operations we deem undesirable. We will find the ways and means to hurt Hizballah and terrorism and continue expanding the security of our northern border.

[Levi] Do you feel signs of concern among the residents of south Lebanon?

[Mordekhay] It is only natural that the residents of the security zone ask questions and are interested in what is taking place in the Middle East, in the peace process, and all that is relevant to it. Naturally, their questions are legitimate.

[Levi] What is your reply.

[Mordekhay] There are facts showing that Israel supports the security zone, allows its residents to work in Israel—over 2,300 people work in Israel currently. The SLA is backed, supported, and trained by the IDF. The residents of the security zone know that our lives are intertwined and that we share a common goal, which is to prevent and hurt terrorism. I am certain these joint interests will eventually serve as a basis for understandings with other parts of Lebanon.

[Levi] Gen. Mordekhay, the residents there are concerned that the future of the security zone is at stake. They assume that the IDF will not be there forever. What, then, do you tell them?

[Mordekhay] As I said, it is a natural thing. Negotiations are being held with the Lebanese, Syrian, and Jordanian Administration. We talk about a process, the declared goal of which is peace, and no one should be concerned in peacetime. Nevertheless, until we reach peace in south Lebanon we still have a long way to go. The residents of the security zone know that Israel and the IDF stand by them, support them in the face of those who want to harm their way of life. When things change drastically—meaning there will no longer be terror or other activity from the security zone against it and Israel—naturally the IDF and other elements' activity will change, and the residents of the region will be given the legitimate control over it. Currently it is sustained by General Lahd and other Lebanese organizations.

[Levi] Let us move to the Syrian sector. Knowing the Syrian border, do you detect signs of positive changes taking place on the other side? Is there any change in the Syrian concept?

[Mordekhay] We are witnessing a very substantial thing taking place in the Middle East, and the world in general: There is a change in the size of what used to be the USSR. There are changes following the Gulf War, in which the U.S. supremacy becomes clear, and channels have opened in the Middle East. The dwarfing and vulnerability of Iraq after the Gulf War has changed that country in force and spirit. Because of these changes, there were processes that led al-Asad and Syria to the negotiations process. It is our duty, as the IDF and mine as a general in the Army, to prepare and be ready for any eventuality.

[Levi] Even during peace negotiations?

[Mordekhay] I cannot testify to any significant change on the ground. Syria has been growing stronger quantitatively and qualitatively in the past year. We must genuinely evaluate the situation and give total backing for any legitimate group leading processes aimed at change in the Middle East.

[Levi] General, even in an era of negotiations, are you preparing the IDF for the possibility that Syria, in the wake of a failure in the negotiations, might go to war?

[Mordekhay] The IDF, and definitely the Northern Command, must be on the alert and prepared for any eventuality and any possible development every day of the year, and definitely during such times. I do not see any signs of any change on the ground. The IDF has not concluded its mission; on the contrary, its obvious tasks are becoming more blatant. These continue to be defending Israel's security, defending our northern border, defending the safety of the inhabitants in all the areas for which we are responsible.

[Al-Tawil] Are you concerned about Syria's procurement process? Is that why you are also talking about the other option?

[Mordekhay] Syria has been moving in two parallel tracks for a long time. It started negotiating with the State of Israel and at the same time, it is also rearming and growing stronger. There have been published reports about the purchase of advanced tanks, advanced self-propelled guns, long-range Scud-C's. All those things add more might to the Syrian Army. The IDF and Northern Command are obviously taking into account all the possible designs arising from procurement and strengthening of Syria's military prowess. In parallel to this strengthening process there is a political process. The future will tell if there is a move from one track to the other and when a change occurs.

[Levi] General, do you believe that Israel can withdraw from territories in the Golan Heights and at the same time maintain a reasonable level of security?

[Mordekhay] As long as there are threats to the State of Israel and as long as there is an army or armies prepared and on the alert to harm the sovereignty of the State of Israel, it is obvious that there will be a need for territory, depth, and areas on which the defense of the State of Israel will be based on the land and in the air.

[Al-Tawil] Also during times of peace?

[Mordekhay] When the State of Israel achieves peace and the State of Israel and the Israeli Government make political decisions, the IDF will implement what is imposed upon it.

[Levi] What will be the value of territories during peace time from a security and military viewpoint?

[Mordekhay] The territories are valuable in the face of threats, dangers, and change which could take place, but I am convinced that the senior political echelon takes into account all the possibilities and the significance of any development that might occur. We will discuss it when it happens. In the meantime, I find it vital to maintain a strong IDF, a self-confident IDF, an IDF that believes in its ability to maintain security and look after the safety of the inhabitants. I am sure that under any condition, in any situation, we will be able to carry out what we are destined for, to implement our mission.

[Levi] Can we understand from what you are saying, General, that the Golan Heights are vital to the security of the state in any situation?

[Mordekhay] You can understand what I say and what I say anybody can clearly understand. I mean that when there are threats, procurement and strengthening there is a need for a strong IDF, there is a need for forces and territories on which the defense and security of the State of Israel will be based. When the situation changes and the Israeli Government makes different decisions, as I pointed out, then on the basis of those decisions, the IDF will implement what is imposed on it.

[Levi] How do you view the importance of the Golan Heights in the era of Scud missiles? That was asked in the wake of the Gulf War since many military experts said that the lesson from that war is that the concept of strategic depth no longer has the same vital significance it had previously.

[Mordekhay] I do not accept that because Israel is also facing direct threats. Europe or the United States were not threatened from Iraq or even Kuwait. The distances we refer to are short, the depth is narrow, and the mass of forces and existing fire power is such as to threaten us, beyond the threat of missiles and aircraft and all sorts of flying objects. There are forces carrying out maneuvers and moving on the ground, and they are capable of using great prowess to cause a basic change on the ground. As long as the military threats and forces exist and constitute a direct land threat to the State of Israel—not only an indirect ballistic threat—the importance of those things continue under the current conditions. When situations change, new thinking is considered.

[Levi] How do you see the IDF defending the Galilee from inside the Galilee if it is called on to do so under a peace accord?

[Mordekhay] I suggest that we first reach agreements and for peace to reign in the Middle East. When the IDF will be asked to express its opinion and make recommendations on agreements, it will find out how and when to do so. I do not believe a television debate is the proper forum for that.

[Al-Tawil] Does the political decisionmaking echelons consult with the military level regarding the possible options of withdrawal?

[Mordekhay] Naturally, the political echelons hear the advise of authoritative military elements. Some of them are well-versed and knowledgeable in what is taking place. The facts and recommendations are handed to those who should be aware of them.

[Levi] Has the Northern Command began preparing position papers to express its opinion, when it is sought, about the essentiality of the Golan Heights from the military point of view?

[Mordekhay] The Northern Command is directly charged with sustaining the security, and it does it well.

[Levi] Gen. Yitzhaq Mordekhay, thank you and a happy new year.

[Mordekhay] Thank you.

Foreign Minister Delivers Address at UNGA

JN0210071792 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Jordan called on Israel yesterday to halt the building of all settlements in the occupied Arab territories. In an address to the UN General Assembly [UNGA], Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir said that it is a strange irony that while the parties to the Arab-Israeli dispute are holding negotiations on the basis of international legalities, Israel continues its illegal practices, the first and foremost of which is the building of new settlements.

In his address, Dr. Abu-Jabir called for measures to alleviate the plight of the Iraqi people who are subjected to UN sanctions. He said that Jordan is committed to UN Security Council resolutions and looks forward to putting an end to the consequences of the Gulf crisis through peaceful means.

Trial of Deputies Continues

Defendants Enter Pleas

JN3009152392 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] The State Security Court today resumed prosecution of the defendants standing trial in the Islamic Mobilization Youth Organization case—Deputies Layth Farhan Shubaylat, Ya'qub Jum'ah Qirrish, and Ahmad al-Ayyubi and 'Abd-al-Hamid Idkayk. Details in the following report by our correspondent:

[Begin unidentified reporter recording] Today's session—the second to be convened by the State Security Court hearing the case—began with the public prosecutor's rebuttal of the objections raised by defense attorneys for defendants Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish. The public prosecutor addressed all the points raised in their defense. He emphasized that the public prosecution was being careful to observe the letter and spirit of the provisions of the law and that the rights of the accused to defend themselves was sacred. The public prosecutor, he added, has no personal quarrel with any of the defendants. By virtue of the fact that the state prosecutor is a faithful representative of society, he asserted, state prosecution will build its case on law and truth.

In a rebuttal of the four cases made by the defense attorneys, the public prosecutor said that he and the competent authorities have handled the case in accordance with constitutional rules and legal procedures. The public prosecutor appealed to the court to dismiss all objections raised by the defense attorneys and to pursue the case.

After the session was recessed to check several legal points, the president of the court gave permission to the chief attorney for first defendant Layth Shubaylat to respond to the public prosecutor. He indicated that the State Security Court is a special court provided for in Jordan's Constitution and, as such, is part of the national judiciary and the executive authorities, according to the principle of the separation of powers, cannot interfere in its work.

The president of the court then decided the following: First, to defer consideration of the objections raised by the defense attorneys until the checking stage. He said that at that stage of the case, the defense may, if it so wishes, register its reservations over court procedures.

Second, the court will give defense attorneys access to the evidence included in the case file.

Third, to defer the legality of the evidence until the time comes for the case to be decided.

Fourth, to defer addressing objections to the competence of the court to try a number of the charges made against the second defendant until the case is decided.

Fifth, to defer addressing objections over the naming of officers from the General Intelligence Directorate as public prosecutors at the State Security Court until the time comes for deciding the case. The defense attorneys may then register their reservations.

The court then began asking the defendants about the charges made against them, and proceeded according to the rules. The first and second defendants, Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish respectively, pleaded not guilty to the charges against them. The third and fourth defendants, Ahmad Ramzi al-Ayyubi and 'Abd-al-Hamid Idkayk, pleaded guilty to the charges listed in the indictment bill, namely the possession of weapons and explosives and their membership in the Islamic Mobilization Youth Organization. They said, however, that their aim was not to overthrow the system of government or to use these weapons within the country. Both said they came into the possession of the weapons at the request of the second defendant, Ya'qub Qirrish. The court then decided to disregard their confessions given their discrepancy with the specifics of the charges they are facing. The court president then decided to recess the case until next Monday morning to hear the evidence of the state prosecutor. [end recording]

Claim Arms for Use Against Israel

JN0110103792 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1-2 Oct 92 pp 1,5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sana' 'Atiyah]

[Text] Amman—The open trial of the "Al-Nafir" case at the State Security Court entered its second day Wednesday with two of the accused pleading guilty to charges that they belonged to an illegal group and possessed weapons and explosives, but saying that they did not aim to topple the regime nor to "launch subversive operations" in Jordan.

While pleading guilty to belonging to the "Shabab al-Nafir al-Islami" group, merchants Ahmad al-Ayyubi and 'Abd-al-Hamid Idkayk told the court that their objective was "armed struggle" against the Israeli occupation of the occupied territories.

Deputies Layth Shubaylat and Ya'qub Qirrish both pleaded not guilty to all charges against them, which ranged from belonging to al-Nafir, plotting to overthrow the regime, undermining Iraqi-Jordanian relations, and slandering His Majesty the King and Parliament members. Mr. Shubaylat is charged with seven counts, Deputy Qirrish was charged with five, and the two others with three.

The guilty plea of the third and fourth defendants came after a long debate between the defence and prosecution on the jurisidiction of the State Security Court and the legality of investigations conducted by the General Intelligence Department (GID) and other technical legalities.

"The aim of the group is to work inside the occupied territories," Mr. al-Ayyubi and Mr. Idkayk separately told the court, presided over by Lieutenant-Colonel Yusuf al-Fa'uri. Mr. al-Ayyubi described the group as an organisation of "armed struggle" against Israeli occupation.

The two defendants, owners of a shop in Jabal al-Husayn called "The World of Mirrors and Frames," told the court that the weapons were given to them by Deputy Qirrish for "safekeeping," and that they did not know what that purpose of these weapons were. As Mr. Idkayk said that Shaykh Qirrish was the "leader of the organisation," the quiet Sufi deputy's face appeared to turn pale at the statement.

The attorney of Mr. al-Ayyubi and Mr. Idkayk, Marwan al-Kayid stated that his two clients pleaded guilty of possessing arms and explosives, but that "these weapons were not intended to be used inside the country," and that "al-Nafir" did not intend to topple the regime.

Judge al-Fa'uri, who heads a panel of three military judges, said that the "court does not see that the statements made by Mr. al- Ayyubi and Mr. Idkayk constitute testimonies or confessions" since they were not cross-examined and therefore did not accept the statements as such in Wednesday's court hearing.

Lawyers also said that the statements made by the last two defendants were different from those they made during the investigations, and that all their statements will be discussed in the course of the trial, which was adjourned until Monday morning.

Mr. Shubaylat's chief lawyer Ibrahim Bakr described the pleas by the last two defendants as "positive" for not only his client, but also for the other defendants. He cited their statements about not intending to use violence inside Jordan as helping the case of all defendants.

Although the courtroom was full for the second day, fewer deputies than Tuesday attended. Wednesday's session was mostly attended by family members of the accused and other interested members of the public as well as members of the press.

Before the defendants entered their pleas, Prosecutor Muhammad Hijazi responded to objections made Tuesday by Mr. Bakr and Mr. Qirrish's lawyer Ahmad Abu-'Arqub.

In a seven-page memorandum he read to the court, Major Hijazi insisted that the procedure in which the investigations were carried out were all legal and conformed to the law of the land.

"I would like to stress the total commitment of the prosecution in executing the law in text and spirit, and its respect for the sanctity of the right to a defence," Maj. Hijazi said. He added that the prosecution "had nothing personal against any of the defendants."

In his statement the prosecutor was basically responding to objections made by Mr. Bakr and Mr. Abu-'Arqub to the way the investigations and interrogations were conducted, the role of the GID in the interrogation, the bugging of telephones of the accused without a court order before the official investigations started and a list of other procedural objections.

Much of the hour-and-a-half session dealt with whether it was within the jurisdicion of GID officers to interrogate the third and fourth defendants and whether they had the right to order the bugging of the two deputies' telephones.

Maj. Hijazi said that according to the 1959 and 1961 State Security Court and Criminal Laws, GID officers are appointed as prosecutor-generals by the chief of the Armed Forces and that it was within the jurisdiction of one of the officers, (named as Marwan 'Abd-al-Rahim) who is also a prosecutor, to order the bugging of the telephones. Mr. Bakr had objected that Mr. Shubaylat's phone was tapped without a court order but with an order from a GID officer.

Maj. Hijazi also referred to the GID law of 1964 stating that all officers of the department are members of the Armed Forces, "and therefore are authorised to order the surveillance of telephone calls."

In response to the prosecution's statement, Mr. Bakr stressed that the GID officers "were acting as prosecutor-generals during the days of martial law."

"This jurisdiction is now finished," Mr. Bakr said, appealing to the judges to be fair, just and independent in dealing with his client's case.

Martial law was completely abolished by His Majesty King Husayn this summer.

The draft law on the State Security Court, which is to include military and civilian judges, has not yet been endorsed by Parliament.

Mr. Bakr added that the GID was "linked to the prime minister and therefore is part of the executive branch, which cannot interfere with the court procedure since it is part of a separate branch, the judicial."

"The independence of the three branches is constitutional," Mr. Bakr said.

He did not refute the constitutionality of the State Security Court, but asked the judges to act as a specialised court, separate from all other branches of authority.

Maj. Hijazi responded to Mr. Abu-'Arqub's objections that it was not within the State Security Court's jurisdiction to try this case, saying that it was, since an illegal armed group was involved.

After a 15-minute recess, Judge Fa'uri said that the court decided to consider the objections and deal with them later on as the trials proceeded to decide the legality of the procedure of the investigations and all other objections made by the defence lawyers.

The judge also told Mr. Bakr that he had the right to look at a photo album that was confiscated from Mr. Shubaylat which allegedly had "writings slandering the dignity of His Majesty the King." The defence lawyers had complained that he did not have access to this piece of evidence.

Meanwhile, about 40 deputies representing all blocs and independents in the Lower House met for two-and-a half hours Wednesday at the Muslim Brotherhood's office in al-Shmaysani to discuss the case of their two colleagues. According to Brotherhood sources, the participants included a number of deputies who are members of the Cabinet: Trade and Industy Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs 'Atif Butush, Minister of State Jamal Khurayshah, and Justice Minister Yusuf Mubaydin. No details were released on the outcome of the meeting except that they decided to meet again next week to continue their discussions on the case.

'More Extensive' Border Disputes in Gulf Feared

JN0210100792 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Oct 92 pp 1, 20

[Editorial: "On the Border Incident Between Qatar and Saudi Arabia"]

[Text] The border incident that took place between Saudi Arabia and Qatar is yet another regrettable event in the current Arab era, in which the use of force has replaced dialogue and good-neighborliness, not to mention the spirit of brotherhood and solidarity that used to characterize inter-Arab relations throughout the decades.

It is even more regrettable and astonishing that the unexpected border incident took place between two brotherly states bound by longstanding relations of brotherhood and friendship. These ties exist in addition to their institutionalized stable political alliances within the Gulf Cooperation Council, whic was established over 10 years ago and which includes both Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Without expressing further feelings of regret and pain for that border incident, we realize in advance that there are several inactive border disputes between Gulf states. We realize that there are several foreign parties willing to provoke such problems between brothers in the hope of opening a new gap through which it would be possible to strike at the most basic forms of unity and freedom that continue to exist among some Arabs.

It was really hoped that the current Arab state of affairs, with all the fragmentation, weakness, and division characterizing it, would further motivate all Arab states not only to work to resolve their border disputes by themselves, without any foreign intervention, but also to work sincerely and honestly to close the chapter of division among themselves.

It behooves the Arabs, especially the Gulf brothers, to be aware of the impending foreign dangers and the declared or semi-declared accompanying foreign ambitions, to realize that all sisterly capitals should transcend trivial disputes and short-term and partial calculations and work to restore solidarity which can resolve such problems and defuse all mines across Arab borders.

Thus, the Saudi-Qatari border incident and its consequences, which cast dark shadows on the relations between two sisterly, neighboring countries, could lead to a more extensive border explosion. Such an explosion could include most states of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula. Under these countries are inactive border disputes which, if erupted, could lead the entire region into bloody confrontations and open the remaining closed Arab doors to those coveting Arab territory and resources and targeting the dispersed and conflicting Arab entities.

Decree Postpones National Assembly Session to Dec

JN3009153492 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] A royal decree has been issued postponing the current ordinary session of parliament until the first of December 1992. The royal decree was issued on the strength of Article 78 of the Constitution, which empowers his majesty the king to postpone parliament sessions.

Tension, Shelling Continues in South

NC0210091392 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] Enemy military planes yesterday continued their sorties in the south, conducting mock raids for five hours in Iqlim al- Tuffah and other southern areas. There is tension in the areas near the occupation positions.

According to security reports, the occupation forces brought reinforcements to their positions and are considering deploying joint units of the enemy Army and agents in the areas close to the liberated areas.

Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr has come under shelling from enemy positions in al-Dabshah and Jabal Tuhrah. Al-Nabatiyah hills and an abandoned Army barracks in al-Nabatiyah came under sniper fire. Sniper fire interrupted traffic on al-Ghanduriyah main road, linking Bint Jubayl and al-Nabatiyah.

Zionist occupation forces and their Lahdist agents last night shelled the northern and eastern outskirts of Kafr Tibnit, al- 'Ayshiyah, and al-Jarmaq from their positions in al-Burj and 'Ali al-Tahir. Enemy vehicles were reportedly assembling in al-Dabshah and Jabal Turhah. Three Israeli vehicles assumed positions on the eastern hills overlooking Kafr Rumman and fired on the surrounding hills with machine guns.

On yesterday's [as heard] attacks, a Hizballah press source said the two Israeli raids on Dayr Qanun al-Nahr in Tyre and 'Ayn Bu Siwar targeted civilian houses, not party centers. In Dayr Qanun al-Nahr, helicopters attacked the home of Shaykh Ahmad Qasir, an aged ulema who has no party affiliation, destroying the empty top floor of his house. The ground floor, inhabited by a woman and two children, was not damaged. A man walking nearby was slightly hurt by flying stones.

Hizballah's press source added: In 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Israeli planes fired four rockets at the home of Hamid Kirki, two of which hit the house, causing only material damage.

The source said the attacks reflect the frustration of the Zionist forces, unable to deflect attacks by the resistance men. The Zionists, the source stated, are trying to break our people's spirit in the hope of diminishing their support for the resistance.

The source called on our dear southern folks to persevere, to be aware of the Israeli designs, and to maintain their support of the resistance as the only option for liberating the land. Occupation, he added, is our people's greatest ordeal and the cause of all the troubles and misfortunes we suffer in the south. There will be no salvation for our people until the Zionist enemy withdraws from our land, never to return, the source said.

Army To Deploy in Ghanian UNIFIL Positions

NC0210085092 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] A military spokesman for the Irish [as heard] UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] operating in the south said that the Lebanese Army will begin deploying eastward behind UNIFIL lines in the next few weeks. The spokesman said the Lebanese Army will take control of some positions currently manned by the Ghanian contingent, which will be reduced by 10 percent next year, he added.

Residents Warned Away From Hizballah Centers

NC3009155092 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 1430 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] Responsible security sources spoke to our military correspondent about recent Hizballah terrorist actions. They said the aim of these actions is to undermine the calm that has prevailed in the south recently and to return it to a new phase of escalation that will inevitably harm the residents of the south.

The security sources advised the residents north of the security strip to stay away from Hizballah centers, the houses of this party's functionaries, and its weapons depots if they want to safeguard their safety and that of their families. They also advised them to prevent Hizballah from using them as human shields to protects this party from retaliation for its terrorist actions against the border strip and its inhabitants.

Al-Hirawi Holds Weekly Meeting With Deputies

NC0110185992 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi today held his weekly meeting with the deputies. Our correspondent at the presidential headquarters cited those who visited al-Hirawi as saying that the president is satisfied with the general situation. He believes the future will be bright. The president affirmed that he is not interfering in the elections for the Chamber of Deputies speaker. He denied that the Syrians are interfering. He stressed that the deputies need to reach an understanding on this issue, which is their responsibility.

The president's visitors expect the elections for Chamber of Deputies speaker to be held on 16 October. The new Chamber will hold its first session on 20 October.

Regarding the new government, the president's visitors cited him as saying that the next government will be effective and help tackle the economic issues, especially if it is a strong and harmonious government that inspires confidence.

The president affirmed his constant interest in the situation in the south, and in returning the displaced people to their villages and homes and applying state efforts to this, even if they are limited.

Council of Ministers Denounces Israeli 'Aggression'

NC0110142892 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Statement by Information Minister Michel Samahah following a Cabinet meeting in Government House on 1 October—recorded]

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a meeting this morning chaired by his excellency the president of the Republic and attended by his excellency the prime minister and ministers.

The president touched on the tense situation in the south, denouncing the continuing Israeli aggression. He instructed the ministers concerned to take the necessary measures to help Lebanese steadfastness in the targeted areas.

His excellency also raised the issue of the attack against Irish contingents operating within the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] and denounced it. On his excellency's suggestion, the Council of Ministers tasked the defense minister with summoning the UNIFIL commander to offer him the Council of Ministers' condolences on the death of the Irish soldier and to denounce the attack. [passage omitted]

Junblatt Remarks on Elections, Other Topics

PM0110141992 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Sep 92 p 3

[Interview with Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, by Ghassan Shirbil in al-Shuf; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shirbil] Congratulations on your deputyship.
[Junblatt] (Laughing) Thank you. We have finished with the elections—which is good. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] There are calls for reconciliation in order to surmount the effects of the elections. What is your position?
[Junblatt] Reconciliation with whom? I do not know exactly. I heard [Amal Movement leader] Mr. Nabih Birri's statement. May God bestow success on all. The sensitive issues are bigger than we are. We prefer to focus on people's daily problems.

[Shirbil] What is your program for the stage ahead, and who are your allies in the new Chamber [of Deputies]?
[Junblatt] At present the first aim is to strengthen the domestic front and allocate work. There is an acceptable parliamentary bloc comprising about 14 deputies. In the past work was confined to a small team comprising me, Marwan Hamadah, and Akram Shuhayb. Today we intend to allocate responsibilities vis-a-vis development, living, and evacuees' affairs. We are facing a suffocating economic crisis. Schools are about to open and people are screaming due to the installments they owe. Winter is approaching, and there is a fuel shortage, which is in addition to the costs of medical treatment. We prefer to concentrate on the details and leave the major policies to their people. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] Do you have a special sensitivity toward the militias you faced, that is, the "Lebanese Forces"?
[Junblatt] I have no sensitivity toward anyone. May God bestow success on all, make them happy, and keep them away. It is not a place for sensitivities. This country is amazing: Allies become enemies and enemies become allies. We hope we have learned. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] How do you view the relationship with Syria?
[Junblatt] There are no problems with Syria, and the relationship with it is necessary and supposed to be built on a degree of mutual respect. This relationship must be built through the treaty signed between the two countries. There must be a clearer relationship than the existing one, especially with regard to the economic aspect. There is a general complaint that Syrian goods are flooding the country. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] What about the relationship with Iran?
[Junblatt] The relationship with Iran has a strategic dimension. Iran is a major state in the region and has a big role in the Arab world, especially in Lebanon. And I believe the relationship with it is useful.

[Shirbil] And what if Hizballah deputies demand tomorrow the establishment of an Islamic republic in Lebanon?
[Junblatt] Under democracy every group is entitled to present and advocate its views. I believe that Lebanon's nature makes pluralist democracy the only option. [passage omitted]

[Shirbil] A great deal is being said about the settlement of Palestinians in Lebanon. What is your opinion?
[Junblatt] I believe that settlement is taking place. No one should ask our opinion when it comes to this kind of issue. Where will the Palestinians go if they are not allowed to return? I personally see no signs that they will be allowed to return.

[Shirbil] A lot has been said about your relationship with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat.
[Junblatt] My relationship with Yasir 'Arafat was uneasy during the "liberation war." I did not accept his alliance with Michel 'Awn. That was the main point. In the camps war I did my utmost to stop it but I did not succeed. The "Salvation group" hit the suburb from the mountain without any permission from anyone.

[Shirbil] What about the Syrian forces' redeployment?
[Junblatt] I believe that this is linked to talks being held between the Lebanese and Syrian Governments. And it is bound to be mentioned within the general atmosphere surrounding U.S.-Syrian relations. What is more important is for our own forces to protect the south and implement Resolution 425. [passage omitted]

Syrian-Iraqi-Turkish Water Committee Talks Resume

JN0110134992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Damascus—The joint Syrian-Iraqi-Turkish technical committee on water is continuing its meetings in Damascus as part of its current session of talks, which has been extended until Saturday [3 October] to complete discussion and examination of all topics listed on its agenda.

The technical committee met at the Irrigation Ministry today. During its meeting, the committee resumed discussion of topics pertaining to joint water issues, particularly those related to the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers. Delegations of the three countries discussed issues and exchanged information about climatic and hydrological issues in the three countries. In addition, they discussed technical data related to the dams built along the Euphrates in Syria, Iraq, and Turkey. Afterward, the committee moved on to discuss the implementation of recommendations established in the statement issued by the three countries' irrigation ministers in 1988 on formulating well-considered technical proposals regarding the sharing of the Euphrates and Tigris waters fairly, evenly, and to the satisfaction of all parties.

Iraq Requests More Water

NC0110154992 Paris AFP in English 1505 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Damascus, Oct 1 (AFP) - Syrian, Iraqi and Turkish experts will extend by two days talks aimed at finding "acceptable" proposals on sharing the waters of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers, official sources said Thursday.

The talks which opened on Monday had been scheduled to end Thursday.

The delegates are trying to reach "acceptable and fair proposals on sharing the waters of the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers," the source said. An Iraqi official said here Wednesday that Turkey should allow more water from the Euphrates River to flow into neighbouring Syria and downstream to Iraq.

'Abd-al-Sattar Husayn complained that Iraq's current share of 58 percent of 500 cubic metres (per second) was "insufficient," saying it covered only half the country's needs.

Under a 1987 protocol with Turkey, Syria receives 500 cubic metres (650 cubic yards) per second of water from the Euphrates, which rises in Turkey and flows 2,800 kilometres (1,700 miles) through Syria and then to Iraq.

Syria has described the protocol as "temporary" until the reservoir behind Turkey's massive Ataturk Dam, straddling the Euphrates, fills up.

The dam, officially opened in July, is part of a huge irrigation project involving the construction of 22 dams on the Euphrates and the Tigris, which flows from Turkey into Iraq along a section of the Turkish-Syrian border. The irrigation project has heightened concerns in Syria and Iraq over the continued flow of sufficient water from the rivers.

Al-Shar' Meets Counterparts at UNGA 30 Sep

Meets Saudi, UAE, Yemeni Ministers

JN3009170592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] On the sidelines of the UN General Assembly [UNGA] meetings in New York, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met last night with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. The officials discussed Arab developments and the dispute between the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and the Islamic Republic of Iran. The two were in agreement over the need to work out the dispute through political dialogue. They were later joined by Emirian Foreign Minister Shaykh Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi. The three underscored the need for Syria to pursue its efforts to resolve the UAE-Iran dispute peacefully and through direct contacts.

Earlier last night, al-Shar' had met with 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, minister of state for foreign affairs in the Republic of Yemen. The two officials stressed that border disputes between certain Arab states should be sorted out in a brotherly spirit through dialogue and direct contacts. They also reviewed the state of the Middle East peace process in light of the latest round of bilateral talks in Washington, as well as ties between Syria and Yemen.

Meets With Djerejian

JN3009204292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met this afternoon with Edward Djerejian, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs. Syrian Ambassador in Washington Walid al-Mu'allim attended the meeting.

During the meeting, discussions dealt with developments in the region, particularly the peace process and the latest round of peace talks in Washington. Discussions also dealt with the situation in Lebanon and relations between Syria and the United States.

Commentary Views Rabin's Call for Higher Meeting

JN0110163392 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1234 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Over the past few days, Yitzhaq Rabin, head of the Israeli Government, has repeated his demands to upgrade the level of [Arab-Israeli peace talk]

meetings. Yesterday, he reached the point of stressing that the peace talks will reach an impasse if his demand is not met.

The fact is that the peace talks, whether under former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's government or that of Rabin, were confronted by Israel's refusal to respond to the components of the desired just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, foremost of which is Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

In public statements, Yitzhaq Shamir has announced that he was planning for negotiations that would last for years and years so that he could Judaize all the occupied territories and fill them with settlements.

When Rabin came to power, he made many statements on his willingness to give momentum to the peace process and expedite the talks. Accordingly, the world became optimistic, but only for a little while. In the sixth round of talks, it became clear that the Israeli side was not fully authorized and that it received strict instructions from Rabin himself not to get involved in the essential issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict and not to discuss the issue of withdrawal from the occupied territories. The Arabs found themselves presented with the same policy of prevarication, procrastination, and avoiding the requirements of peace.

The Israeli negotiating team was embarrassed when the Arab parties, particularly Syria, presented the principles of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Therefore, the Israeli side asked for a 10-day recess to consult with its government. Following those consultations, the team returned to Washington practically empty-handed, without a positive response to the Syrian proposals and without proposals of their own to meet the level of Syria's document, which was praised by the international community, including the United States, as an historic document because of its objective, balanced, and integrated manner that contains the mechanism to achieve the desired peace.

If we are to assess the results of Rabin's statements and affirmations of his willingness to expedite the peace process, then we find nothing at all. He promised true autonomy to the Palestinians and in Washington offered them a plan for limited administrative no different from Shamir's proposal. He announced that the scheme for a Greater Israel is a big illusion and that it is impossible for peace and occupation to exist at the same time. He also refused to discuss the issue of withdrawal from the occupied territories.

It is clear that Rabin's previous statements were aimed at obtaining U.S. loan guarantees and concluding a free weapons deal. After obtaining all that, he is now talking about an impasse.

The question is: If Rabin is really seeking the peace he claims, why then did he deliberately foil the sixth round by sending a delegation that was not authorized to discuss the essential issues necessary for achieving peace.

Arabs, particularly Syria, were the ones who took the initiative to give momentum to the peace process and tried to render it a success by submitting constructive proposals. Where are the promises announced by Rabin after he became the head of government?

When we assess statements by Israeli officials, we find ourselves surprised and astounded. The chief of staff openly rejects withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Foreign Affairs Minister Shim'on Peres demands meetings at a certain level, and Rabin demands meetings at a higher level.

It is clear to the simplest of observers that Rabin's government is trying its best to foil the principles, on the basis of which it was possible to hold the Madrid conference, and is seeking to derail the Washington talks. The Madrid conference was held under the slogan of a comprehensive settlement on all fronts and exchanging land for peace. Rabin is seeking partial settlements that would maintain the occupation and consecrate Israeli hegemony over Arab territory. He persistently refuses to discuss the issue of land and full withdrawal.

Rabin's call for upgrading the level of meetings lies within the framework of this sabotage plan to create a rift in Arab ranks and to delude this or that party that progress can be made by dividing the Arab question. His statement about an impasse in the talks is part of his real efforts to foil the seventh round of talks and prevent hold that round, if possible.

We tell Rabin that Arabs are willing to hold a seventh round of talks. If Rabin has constructive proposals to achieve peace, then the Washington talks are a sound and correct framework for discussing them. We also say that the maneuvering and deception cannot continue.

It became certain to the world that Arabs want a peace that is just and comprehensive on all fronts. The world will sooner than later discover that Israel is avoiding the requirements for peace and that its ruler's statements about peace are nothing more than maneuvering and deception.

India

Exchange of Fire Between Border Troops Stops

BK0110160292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the exchange of firing between Pakistani and Indian troops in Palanwala sector of Jammu district has stopped since last night. Senior officials visited Palanwala village today for an on-the-spot assessment of the situation. Three persons were killed and 14 injured in unprovoked firing by Pakistani troops. An official spokesman told our Jammu correspondent that Pakistani troops fired about 50,000 rounds and more than 20 mortar shells.

Sri Lankan President Begins 3-Day Visit 1 Oct

BK0110081392 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] The president of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, arrived in New Delhi today on a three-day state visit to India. He was accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] where the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao; and other dignitaries were present to welcome him.

Speaking to newsmen, Mr. Premadasa said that relations between India and his country are good and cordial. He said the people of the two countries are no strangers to each other and hoped that his visit will further strengthen friendly ties. In reply to a question, he said Pakistan's response to the signing of a treaty for preferential trade between the SAARC [South Asian Association For Regional Cooperation] countries was encouraging.

Holds Discussions in Delhi

BK0110163892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] The president of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, today held wide-ranging discussions with the Indian leaders in New Delhi. During the discussions, which mainly covered SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]-related issues, bilateral matters and other regional and international issues of mutual concern also figured.

Soon after his arrival, Mr. Premadasa called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma. During the meeting, which lasted for about 30 minutes, the two leaders underlined the need to strengthen cooperation within the SAARC. They also discussed the age-old ties between the two countries and said that such visits will help strengthen bilateral relations.

Mr. Premadasa invited Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma to visit his country next year, which is the 2,300th anniversary of the advent of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. The president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, is hosting a banquet this evening in honor of the visiting dignitary.

The vice president, Mr. K.R. Narayanan; the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao; and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, also separately called on the Sri Lankan president. Their discussions, among other things, covered poverty alleviation programs.

Earlier, on his arrival in the capital, Mr. Premadasa, who is on a three-day visit to India in his capacity as chairman of the SAARC, was accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president's house].

Cited on SAARC Meeting

BK0210033092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 2 Oct 92

[Text] India has called for an effective devolution of power within a framework of a united Sri Lanka for an early solution of the ethnic conflict in the island nation. Speaking at a banquet in honor if the visiting Sri Lankan president in New Delhi last night, the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, said that the India-Sri Lanka agreement was a sincere attempt to resolve the ethnic conflict. Speaking about bilateral relations, the president observed that there is need to strengthen cooperation in the economic field. Dr. Sharma said India-Sri Lanka trade has significantly increased in the last two years and efforts are on to identify various sectors where cooperation can substantially benefit both the countries.

In his speech, President Premadasa hoped that the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] meeting in Dhaka will be a decisive step in alleviating and eradicating poverty in the region. Referring to the rapid pace of economic integration in other parts of the world, he said that the South Asian countries should fulfill their commitment to liberalize trade. He said there is scope for joint ventures, buy-back arrangements, joint marketing, as well as tourist promotion.

The Sri Lankan president is on a visit to India in his capacity as chairman of the SAARC.

Bilateral Trade With Japan To Expand, Diversify

BK0110164092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] India and Japan are to expand and diversify bilateral trade. This was decided at the two-day, official-level talks which ended in New Delhi today. At present, India exports over 4,000 crore rupees worth of items to Japan. Gems and jewelry, iron ore, and marine products are the main Indian exports. Imports from Japan account for 3,370 crore rupees.

Antidrug, Trade Pacts To Be Signed With Burma

BK0110082592 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] India and Myanmar [Burma] have decided to sign two agreements on control of drug trafficking and border trade. This was announced after the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, had a meeting with the Myanmar's foreign minister, Mr Gyaw, at UN headquarters in New York last evening. The two ministers discussed bilateral and international issues for about 45 minutes. Mr. Gyaw briefed Mr. Faleiro on the international situation in Myanmar and the progress toward democracy. He said his government plans to call a national convention by year-end involving political parties and ethnic groups to discuss a new constitution and elections in the country.

Full Diplomatic Ties Established With Georgia

BK2909044892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] India has established full diplomatic ties with Georgia, a former Soviet republic on the Black Sea coast. A protocol to this effect was signed in Moscow yesterday by the Indian ambassador, Mr. Alfred Gonsalves; and the Georgian foreign minister, Mr. Aleksandr Chikvaidze.

Success in Curbing Punjab Insurgency Noted

BK0110161292 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] The security adviser to the Punjab government, Lieutenant General, J.K. Puri, says smuggling of arms and infiltration of militants from across the border with Pakistan have been considerably checked. Speaking to newspersons in Chandigarh today, he said security forces have continued their pressure in order to completely eliminate militancy in the state. He said six new battalions of police commandos are being raised to combat terrorism.

Top Kashmir Militants Killed by Army in Kupwara

BK0110131092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, seven top militants were killed within the 5-km belt of the Line of Control in Kupwara sector in an encounter with the army yesterday. Seven AK-47 rifles, eight mines, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition, and 2 lakh rupees in Indian currency were recovered from the killed militants.

Firm Action Against Bangladeshi Immigrants Urged

BK0110123092 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Commentary by Mitha Sanghvi, special correspondent of THE MATHRUBHUMI: "Problem of Illegal Immigrants From Bangladesh"]

[Text] The measures approved by the chief ministers of the states affected by illegal infiltration on Monday, including issue of identity cards in the border region, strengthening of the border security network, and further tightening of visa restrictions, do not have more than a symbolic effect. However, it is for the first time that the governments, both at the center and in the states, have in concerted fashion recognized the dimensions of the problem and hammered together a plan to counter the influx.

The crux of the problem lies in the fact that most of the Bangladeshis crossing into India are basically economic refugees, even though the Hindu refugees also have the added factor of fleeing from a state which has not dealt with its minorities too kindly. Indeed, their minority status has only worsened their economic position and provided the added incentive to cross borders.

A resolution passed by the chief ministers of Tripura, Mizoram, and the deputy chief minister of Meghalaya underlined the need for formulating an effective strategy and a well-coordinated plan of action to be implemented jointly by the central government and the state governments to deal with the problem. The chief ministers felt that large-scale immigration from Bangladesh had led to serious problems, including demographic changes in different parts of the country. The conference viewed with concern that some organizations, including the anti-talk faction of ULFA [United Liberation Front of Assam], have been encouraging or conniving at illegal immigration. Such action should be firmly dealt with, both at the political and administrative levels.

Supporting the steps taken by the government to strengthen the BSF [Border Security Force], tightening of visa regulations, and computerize the visa control system, the conference felt that still more powers should be accorded to the BSF and the mobile task force in some areas. The meeting felt that there was an urgent need to create public awareness of the sociocultural, political, and security implications of the (?entry) of foreigners into India. Such a campaign should aim at motivating the local people to come forward to report to the authorities about the presence of illegal immigrants in their areas.

It is extremely difficult to make a realistic estimate of the extent of illegal immigration that has taken place. However, there is no denying that the problem has assumed very serious dimension. Whatever be the compelling motive or cause for the immigration of people from Bangladesh, its continuous flow into India is a matter of serious concern for all of us. We know that a large

number of Bangladeshi nationals find it easy to overstay on account of the liberal visa agreement with Bangladesh. The central government has to play an important role in strengthening the surveillance, patrolling of the borders and extending support to the state governments for strengthening their machinery for (?detection) and deportation of illegal immigrants.

Apart from the problem of illegal immigration, the home minister said Bangladeshi nationals continue to stay in India after the expiry of their visa period. To deal with the problem, a 1,430- million-rupee scheme has been formulated to computerize the records relating to the grant of visas. Networking arrangements will be made with the Home Ministry and the capitals of West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, and Meghalaya. Fencing the border is extremely difficult because of the inhospitable terrain. The cost estimates have also risen from 3,520 million to 8,310 million rupees. There are only 63 BSF battalions to patrol a 4,900-km-long border. At the diplomatic level, the Center had also requested the Bangladesh Government to take suitable measures to stop the immigration of Bangladeshis into India. But, the irony is that Bangladesh conveniently denies that any of its citizens have crossed the border illegally and even refuses to take back those detected and deported by India. Delhi has been pussyfooting this issue on the plea of maintaining good- neighborly relations, but the Bangladeshization of India has reached such a flash point that any further dithering will be explosive. Dhaka needs to be told in no uncertain terms that India cannot bear any more burden.

Article on 'Enterprising Stance' on Line of Control

BK2909121392 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 16 Sep 92 p 8

[Report by Manvendra Singh]

[Text] Reversing the normal trend, James Clad, once a journalist, is now an academic of sorts. Recently he authored an article on South Asia, focussing on Kashmir and suggesting possibilities of a policy shift from the Indian side of the dispute. He avowedly based the article on meetings with those empowered to decide in India, with a thesis that India was ready to accept the Line of Control (LC) as an international border, therefore, offering to freeze the Kashmir dispute with Pakistan.

If his thesis is indeed based on actual discussions, it is important, whilst also unveiling two prominent Indian traits. First of all, it proposes that India does, after all, think about national interests. And secondly, India also does little to put that thinking into effect. The period since 1947 is replete with such instances, adding nothing to popular trust in the decision makers. The "new" stance, in any case, is not so new and has in fact been in practice for long.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir has two kinds of border. An international border, with pillars et al, that stretches up to the south of Akhnoor. Jammu and Kathua districts have an international border since they run along Pakistan's Punjab province. The LC [Line of Control] starts from where Pakistani Punjab ends and "Azad Kashmir" starts, as also the legal dispute over the former princely state.

There have been many proposals in the past to accept the LC as a border, all inevitably failing owing to political divergence between the two warring nations. India has actually been treating the LC as a border; there could be no other reason for returning Haji Pir after gallantly capturing it during the hostilities of 1965. If the LC was treated as disputed territory, legalistically it should be, there was no rationale for returning the war booty as precious as Haji Pir.

Pakistan captured territory around Chhamb in 1965, and retains its possession. If India is in the business of being so kindly, there is no excuse for not going further and proposing a solution to a dispute that is certain to trigger another conflict. The LC as the border is just the kind of advice India should be indicating to its adversary. The advantages to India are many, and in national interest to make the move, India does not need the territory lying west of the LC. The Amarnath shrine is, in any case, in Indian Kashmir, so the desire to regain occupied lands is not based on exigencies, and reflects a bureaucratic and unimaginative approach to policy making. The decade of the eighties saw India lose the diplomatic high ground vis-a-vis Pakistan. The country must recapture the initiative from the unfriendly neighbour, and an enterprising stance on the LC would help recover some of the surrendered ground.

At a time when the country is certain to come under greater pressure over issues like nuclear proliferation, arms purchases and technology transfers, it is only sensible that India makes diplomatic moves and diverts attention. The world knows that India thinks and rather cleverly too, but the world also knows that India does nothing to put that thinking into effect and formulate policies.

A lead on Kashmir would send messages to the contrary, and help the country's image. To the world, India appears as a proselytising, pouty and an ineffectual country. The picture, plainly, must be adjusted to regain national honour. If India did take the necessary steps, a peaceful end to the issue could come about. Exchange of territory along the LC would become inevitable, possibly leading to a harmonious return of Haji Pir.

Iran

Further Reaction to Abu Musa Dispute With UAE

Va'ezi Remarks on Negotiations

LD0110225092 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network 1650 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Studio interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Va'ezi by unidentified correspondent; from the "Political Roundtable" program; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. Va'ezi, may I thank you for coming along to the studio. Considering that a number of news reports and Arab and Western circles fanned this issue [Abu Musa Island] and that they intend to make it a big one and considering that this issue can be easily resolved within the framework of the existing understandings between both sides, what is your assessment? [Va'ezi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Regarding Abu Musa, Iran's position has not changed at all. The 1971 agreement between us and Sharjah remains in force, which we announced. Nothing has changed politically. During the past 21 years, the same agreement...[changes thought]. Iranians and the citizens of Sharjah have been present on Abu Musa and lived in the predetermined parts. In the future, too, they can continue to live and to work there based on the same agreement. There is no specific difficulty to speak of.

It is unfortunate, considering that we announced our position honestly, that certain countries want to raise this issue as a serious one. If you have been paying attention, you will have seen that at first they wanted to raise the issue as a military threat, or a military activity, in the Persian Gulf. As our officials behaved in a correct way, these countries were not able to take this line in practice.

Currently, both the world and our people know that this is a political issue, just as similar differences on border points exist between various other countries. In our own region, Saudi Arabia has differences with Yemen and Qatar; there are differences between Qatar and Bahrain. These differences exist and require political negotiations—nothing else. The same is true regarding the Abu Musa problem. If the Emirates have a particular problem, we prefer—and we advise—friendly bilateral negotiations at which the issues can be discussed and resolved, which is the best way to solve the problem. Even if this issue goes to the UN Security Council, we shall naturally have our say there; we have enough documents about this affair.

And now to the reasons why the media and some countries have fanned this issue.

Naturally, each country wants to increase its stake in this kind of problem. Following the Persian Gulf crisis, the six plus two league was formed. After a short while, this league was completely destroyed. Currently, Egypt wants to portray this Abu Musa issue as being very important, because it is trying to once again breathe life into this six plus two league. It is trying very hard. It says it supports the Emirates, for which, of course, we know that there is no place. Egypt wants to crea e a stepping stone for itself in the Persian Gulf and to make these Arab countries rely on her.

There is another faction that wants to make this issue bigger than it is—Iraq and its supporters. They are Iraq, Algeria, Tunisia, and other countries who supported Iraq during the Persian Gulf crisis; they want to come out of isolation. Iraq has some serious problems and difficulties internally. These people want to change the situation by creating another crisis and to divert world and regional public opinion toward a problem other than Iraq—namely, Abu Musa. Of course, this issue is not as big as that.

Then there are a number of other countries that have always pursued their goals and interests in the Persian Gulf; unfortunately, a number of countries want to rely on other countries for their survival. When an issue, problem, or crisis occurs, this reliance shows itself up, which is the third group.

I believe this is our position: The Persian Gulf has had enough problems during the past decade. It has survived two crises—the Iran-Iraq war, and the Iraq-Kuwait crisis. Now is the time for construction. Our position is the one we openly announced: Calm and stability must rule in the region. As a powerful country of the region, we will put all our efforts into establishing stability and calm. The Abu Musa problem will definitely be resolved peacefully. We will underline our territorial integrity and the good-neighborly relations we have with our neighbors. And we stress that we do not want tension in this region. If anything is brought up in the UN, we will hold discussions there and solve the problems.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

Group Leader Charges 'Western Plot'

LD0110124992 Tehran IRNA in English 1023 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 1, IRNA—Leader of an Islamic organization says that the political propaganda raised by certain Arab countries of the region over the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Tonb-e Bozorg, and Tonb-e Kuchek "is part of a Western plot to cover up the Arab-Israel compromise."

Head of the 'Jazirat Al-Arab' Islamic revolutionary organization Hojjat ol-eslam Sheikh Hassan Saffari made the remark in a recent talk to daily 'ABRAR' in Damascus, Syria, published Thursday.

"The row has been stirred by the Arab sheikhdoms and backed by the West, and is aimed at justifying direct American domination over the region," wrote the daily.

Saffari stressed that the Americans, in need of an excuse for their prolonged military presence in the region, were trying to disturb relations between Iran and regional states.

"The U.S. wants to drag the Islamic republic into a confrontation so that it could have a justification for military aggressions against Iran," he was quoted as saying.

He assured Iran of the support of Muslim nations of the region and said, "If a new war erupts in the Persian Gulf, the Muslim people of the region will support Iran." As for the presence of multinational military forces in the

Persian Gulf he said that no noble Muslim would accept presence of alien forces on Islamic lands, because it threatened independence of Muslim states and allowed domination of the imperialists.

Sheikh Saffari called on the Arab sheikhs of the region to act independently and not heed the plots of the enemy to create disunity and underlined that issues should be resolved through understanding and dialogue.

Dispute Linked to U.S. Elections

NC2609131592 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL (WEEKLY EDITION) in English 17 Sep 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Abu Musa and the U.S. Elections"]

[Text] The cold war, better known as the imaginary war, is said to be behind us. Actually, the danger of a shooting war between the superpowers was very slight. The so-called new world order suddenly replaced the cold war era after the annihilation of the Soviet Union was officially announced. The Americans found it difficult to accept the fact that there was no perceived enemy to fight, even if the whole idea from the outset was rich in propaganda and poor in substance.

As many American observers also had pointed out, the hegemony of the U.S. had started slowly to decay and the supremacy of its economy was being challenged since the late 1970s on through and the 80s. The country's global power monopoly was showing sever signs of fatigue and the gigantic military industry was also in trouble.

Then came the first act of President Bush's new world order. The war over Kuwait gave the Americans some time to be preoccupied with plus a new sense of false pride. The victory of sorts over a small country reinforced the American psychology of acting as masters of the world. Bush became more popular in his country than any other president since World War II.

The pleasant melody was soon to subside. Iraq was given a lesson on the need to uphold international law and not redefine recognized boundaries while American troops remained in the strategic region for "future operations." On the eve of election year in the U.S. and given the depths of Bush's unpopularity, a new conflict was deemed necessary to redirect domestic public opinion. What better place than the Persian Gulf? The island of Abu Musa was put on the priority chart.

To some extent the U.S. plot worked in that the United Arab Emirates succumbed to Washington's wish and started making baseless accusations against the Islamic Republic and putting claim to three islands—Abu Musa, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs. When Tehran made it known that no infringement of its sovereign rights will be tolerated, the shaykhdom rushed to the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council and the long redundant Arab League only to condemn Iran as was recommended by its friends in the White House.

This is no way to the conflict's resolution. It never was. Clearly something about this sudden crisis eruption under U.S. guidance smells wrong. What indeed is true is that the UAE and its compatriots in the six-nation council have put reason and logic on the back bench. In this tense atmosphere of political and economic uncertainty, the Egyptians (and surprisingly the Syrians) are also standing behind Uncle Sam.

On the other hand President Bush and company are aware of the vulnerability of the pro-western monarchies in the area. They are trying to make the most out of the present situation by lending a peculiar shade of legitimacy to the UAE's claim to the island and renewing their patently false commitment to the security of "friendly states."

It is obvious that the Bush administration is playing a new and dangerous game in the oil-rich region to prop up its own popularity in the polls and raise lucrative contracts for U.S. arms manufacturers. The same game was initiated and put into practice to "liberate" Shaykh Jabir's Kuwait from President Saddam Husayn's army of occupation. The highly regarded Arab Monetary Fund report recently put the total cost of restoring the al-Sabah dynasty at $640b [billion]. This of course was shared between Arab states soliciting American protection.

Come November and the dispute over Abu Musa could take a dangerous turn. President Bush's election strategists have one eye on the campaign and the other on the Persian Gulf where American troops are now geared for action. They will not hesitate to provoke a fresh conflict between the (P)GCC and Iran if it can help their not so successful election campaign in any conceivable manner. If instability and American adventurism take the place of peace and harmony in the region, it will not be in the interest of any state and surely not the tiny shaykhdoms that form the UAE.

Daily Notes 'Power Struggle' in UAE

LD0110121592 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 1, IRNA—Two morning dailies Thursday commented on the recent row between Iran and the United Arab Emirates on the Abu Musa Island with 'JOMUHURI-YE ESLAMI' noting that the "power struggle" between the two factions in the UAE [United Arab Emirates] had halted the talks in Abu Dhabi and 'ABRAR' saying that in this crisis outside factors were issuing instructions to the UAE.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI further added that it was not yet clear who would utter the last word in the UAE and who was ruling over the country. "Every single individual would say his own words in order to either please the U.S., Britain or other alien power."

It pointed to Wednesday's strongly-worded statement issued by Iran's Foreign Ministry and said it further indicated Tehran's indignation against the UAE's stance.

"Iran does not expect the UAE to take a good-will gesture in words but attempt to abuse Iran's good-intension and tolerance in practice," wrote the paper.

Meanwhile, ABRAR stressed that the UAE's hasty measure to take up the issue at the United Nations had received opposition from Abu Dhabi's neighbouring states.

"Yemen and Oman are among the countries which have fully realized that tension over historical issues would bear no fruit other than large-scale conflicts," said the daily.

Moreover, reports from the Persian Gulf news circles indicate that there is a difference of opinion in the UAE over the "childish insistence on an incorrect stand."

Such sources, it noted, reason that the UAE sheikhdoms presently have potential territorial disputes among themselves, adding that such disputes would be further intensified when oil wells are explored in disputed areas.

"If the UAE officials perpetuate to insist on their hasty and irrational stand, they would only discredit their diplomacy before the international body," said the daily.

It drew the attention of the UAE officials to the fact that if their insistence caused discord among members of the federation, "who could predict the consequences?"

Syria's Mediation Viewed

NC2709134992 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Sep 92 p 2

[Editorial: "Impartiality, Basic Requirement in Mediation"]

[Text] The Syrian Foreign Minister, Faruq al-Shar', arrived in Tehran on Friday afternoon at the head of a high-ranking political delegation, and was received by his Iranian counterpart, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The Syrian Foreign Minister said at the airport that he was carrying a message from President Hafiz al-Asad for President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and that he would be having discussions with Dr. Velayati concerning Abu Musa Island. Faruq al-Shar' emphasized that he was the bearer of a message of friendship, and intended to seek peaceful ways of settling the differences between the two countries.

As a matter of fact Faruq al-Shar's presence in Tehran is not an out of the ordinary event, for in view of the deep and cordial relations between the two countries, reciprocal visits by the high- ranking officials of the two countries have been quite common in recent years. Nevertheless, there is an element of surprise in al- Shar's recent visit, for this time he has come to mediate between Iran and the UAE.

There is no doubt that Iran wants a friendly settlement of the Abu Musa issue and, as was pointed out before, we are against any attempt to create a political crisis out of this issue. In what sense, then is Faruq al-Shar's mediatory trip surprising?

Our Syrian friends are quite aware that having an impartial stance is the basic requirement in any diplomatic mediation. And the question is whether the Syrians are really impartial on the issue?

Only within the past two weeks Syrian officials have stated, not only once, but twice—first at the 6+2 meeting in Qatar, and then at the Arab League session in Egypt—that the Iranian islands of Tunbs and Abu Musa belonged to the UAE, and have referred to the Iranian efforts at maintaining security at the islands, over which Iran has been exercising sovereignty in accordance with internationally recognized agreements for many years, as acts of "aggression" and "occupation," it is in consideration of the above circumstances that the Syrian initiative for mediation looks surprising.

Wouldn't have been more in keeping with the spirit of the long and deep friendship between the two countries, if the Syrians had offered their mediatory services in Doha before they had signed the statement? Surely that course of action would have prevented the deepening of the tension.

That Tehran wants a friendly and peaceful settlement of the issue is beyond all doubt, and in particular Iran would have preferred direct negotiations first with the al-Shariqah Shaykhdom and then with the UAE. But if they prefer to have the matter settled through a mediator, Tehran will have no objections provided the mediator is an impartial party, and not a country like Syria which has already taken sides in the affair.

We suggest the authorities in the Iranian Foreign Ministry point out in their negotiations with the Syrian officials that Iran accepts only unadulterated friendship.

Guardians Council Discusses Bills on Syria, Israel

LD2709125192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Excerpt] Today's Guardians Council session discussed bills about the cooperation agreement between Iran and the Arab Republic of Syria regarding the activities of law enforcement forces; approving a single Islamic law for banning Israel; and approving a preferential commercial agreement between Islamic states. The Islamic Consultative Assembly has already passed the bills. The bills discussed were considered not to contravene religious laws or the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Besharati, Uzbek Foreign Minister View Cooperation

LD2909183892 Tehran IRNA in English 1438 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA—Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Ubaidulla Abdurazzaqov here today expressed

hope that mutual cooperation between Iran and his country would enter a practical phase.

During his second round of talks with First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati he also said regional problems and cooperation should be settled by the countries themselves.

Besharati in reply said Iran is ready to have any type of cooperation with Uzbekistan in order to help remove its difficulties and constraints.

Pointing to the principles of the Iranian foreign policy which reiterates noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, Besharati said the Islamic Republic seeks expansion of ties with the independent states in regional and international areas.

"We are always ready to help remove constraints and difficulties of the friendly countries, particularly in the region."

Abdurazzaqov arrived in Tehran Sunday.

Besharati Meets With Tajik Education Minister

LD2909091892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Sep 92

[Text] At a meeting with Deputy Foreign Minister Besharati today, Zaker Vazirov, the Tajik education minister, called for more cooperation between both countries and the strengthening of mutual ties.

He also thanked Iran for her help and cooperation in scientific, university, radio, television, and educational matters. He added: Granting student grants to Tajik students by Iran and inaugurating the Open Islamic University in Dushanbe in the future are among the very valuable programs that will be very effective in elevating both countries' common culture.

Besharati stressed Iran's preparedness to increase cooperation in various fields. He stressed the necessity for cooperation between the two countries in regional issues and international circles.

Azerbaijan's Mamedov on Relations With Neighbors

NC2809090692 Tehran ABRAR (International Supplement) in English 10 Sep 92 p 12

[Text] Tehran—Etibar Mamedov is one of the founders of the Azerbaijani Popular Front. He was imprisoned by the defunct Soviet intelligence service KGB for nine months for revealing the massacre of January 1989 in Baku, when he was head of the Azerbaijani representative office in Moscow. Later, he opposed the policies of the Popular Front, and branched away to form his own Azerbaijani National Independence Party. Mamedov has many supporters among the people of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the National Independence Party is a staunch opponent of the policies of the Popular Front led by Abulfaz Elchibey.

In an interview with The ABRAR reporter dispatched to Baku, Mamedov condemned Russia and certain other countries for opposing peace in the Karabakh region. He said Russia and certain other countries do not want a peaceful resolution of the bloody Karabakh conflict because of their own interests.

Calling Popular Front policies "unsatisfactory", Mamedov said, "Their policies, activities and plans are not clear, and they have no idea what should be done."

He called for expansion of Azerbaijan's relations with all its neighbors and added: "Azerbaijan is an independent government, and Turkish policies should not be allowed to interfere in our domestic political and cultural policies and programs. Baku should take into consideration the interests of neighboring governments, and its policies should not be contradictory to the interests of neighboring governments."

Concerning Azerbaijan-Israeli relations, Mamedov said, "Azerbaijan's policy should be in line with the policies of Islamic governments. I know the issue of establishment of Baku-Tel Aviv relations has upset Iranian officials and people. But I assure you that Israel can never exert any influence on the policies of Baku."

Referring to the need for expansion of Baku-Tehran relations, he said, "The people of the republic of Azerbaijan have been isolated from the Iranian people during the past 70 years due to the wrong policies of the past but the two sides have much in common, in religion, culture, history."

Mamedov expressed his opposition to the continued membership of Azerbaijan in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and said, "Azerbaijan must not be a member of the CIS or any other body which would put its commitment on Baku's shoulders."

Concerning Russia's policy in the CIS, he said, "The Russians will never accept the decline of their former empire. That is why they are trying to create tensions in various independent republics to achieve their hegemonistic aims."

Cooperation Accord Signed With German TV Network

LD0110135192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Sep 92

[Text] A memorandum of understanding concerning cooperation between the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the German ZDF TV network was signed in Tehran on Wednesday.

In the memorandum—signed by Mr. Mohammad Hashemi, head of the Voice and Vision organization, and

Dieter Stolte the head of ZDF TV network—both sides stressed the need for ensuring the free dispatch of reports for the purpose of creating understanding and deepening Iranian and German culture.

The memorandum will be effected as of the date of its signing and will be valid for three years. If neither of the two sides informs the other of its intention to cancel the agreement three months before its expiration, the agreement will automatically be extended by three years.

Danish Fisheries Minister Meets With Besharati

LD2709175192 Tehran IRNA in English 1709 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—Danish Minister of Fisheries Kent Kirk and First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati today discussed expansion of Tehran-Copenhagen economic relations and regional and international issues.

Kirk expressed satisfaction over the outcome of Irano-Danish Economic Commission session and signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two states and expressed his government's readiness to cooperate with Iran.

Referring to ample economic and fishery grounds for cooperation existing between the two states, Besharati voiced the Islamic Republic's readiness to expand economic ties with Denmark.

He added that Iran enjoys rich water resources which can be exploited more appropriately if the two states cooperate in exchange of information and experiences.

Besharati elaborated on Iran's policies and efforts to restore and preserve peace, stability and security in the strategic Persian Gulf region.

Meets Kalantari

LD2709180192 Tehran IRNA in English 1723 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—Minister of Agriculture 'Isa Kalantari separately met with Danish Minister of Fisheries Kent Kirk and Dutch head of the Wageningen Agricultural Centre Van Deweg today.

Kirk at the meeting called for the establishment of joint agricultural projects between Iran and Denmark.

Kalantari in reply called for a balance in Tehran-Copenhagen trade.

The two officials also reviewed bilateral cooperation in various fields.

The Danish official arrived here on Saturday at the invitation of the minister of construction jihad, Gholam Reza Foruzesh.

Meanwhile, Deweg in his meeting with Kalantari today reviewed research cooperation between the Agriculture Ministry of Iran and Dutch Agricultural Research Centre.

The two also agreed to cooperate in training areas in establishing short and long term educational courses for the Iranian trainers wishing to study in the Dutch Agricultral Research Centre.

Commentary on U.S. Military Assistance to Israel

LD2709133192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1102 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Within the framework of its commitment to Israel, America will provide Tel Aviv with advanced operational Apache and Black Hawk helicopters. The Zionist regime officials announced their disagreement two weeks ago with the sale of 72 American F-15 fighters to Saudi Arabia and said they would pose a threat to Israel's security. Political experts believe that America's relations with Israel and with governments of a number of Arab states are of two different natures.

The U.S. strategy vis-a-vis Israel is based on dealings with a partner and an ally, so much so that the White House officials see the Israeli entity as an extension of America in the region and as a forefront for protecting their interests in the Middle East. On the other hand, they arrange America's relations with the Arab and Islamic countries in such a way that would increase those countries' dependence on American policies. [passage omitted]

Some observers see the American military assistance to Israel also within the framework of the Republicans' propaganda campaign to buy the votes of six million American Jews in the Presidential elections. Considering the serious problems Bush is facing inside America, and his Democrat rival overtaking him, it should be said that the present American leaders are intent on remaining in power at the cost of threatening the security of Islamic countries of the region and with their unconditional support for Israel, even though their Democratic rivals also principally follow the same policy and stress the same need for Israel to have the upper hand against the Arabs and Muslims.

Reaction to Nuclear Pact With China Viewed

NC2709133392 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Sep 92 p 2

[Editorial: "The World Is Still Dominated by Gunboat Diplomacy"]

[Text] At the end of the Iranian President's visit to China, it was announced that Iran and China had reached agreement to collaborate on peaceful employment of nuclear energy. According to the agreement, Iran

and China will create a 300 megawatt nuclear power plant, and concerning the objectives of the agreement it has been said that peaceful use of nuclear energy was intended.

Following the announcement of the agreement, the American Foreign Secretary spokesman, Richard Boucher, warned China regarding the agreement, and claimed that Iran was intending to acquire nuclear arms.

Exactly on the day the American Foreign Secretary spokesman expressed his concern over the accumulation of nuclear arms in the Middle East, President Bush announced that America was selling 72 advanced F-15xP [as published] aircraft worth $5 billion to the Saudi Arabia.

As a matter of fact the Middle East has been a reliable customer of arms manufactured by the East and the West, in particular by the United States, in the past decades and has always been paying in cash. And it is interesting to note that while they keep selling arms to the Middle East countries and thus manage to recycle the petrodollars back into their economic systems, they don't forget to appease the world public opinion by expressing concern over the accumulation and sale of arms to the Middle Eastern region. And now they have picked the pretext of the creation of a nuclear power plant in order to pressure Iran and China. The hypocrisy of this expression of concern over arms proliferation is revealed when one considers that they are providing all the necessary means for the creation of nuclear arms to an aggressive regime like Israel which disregards all resolutions issued by the Security Council, and uses violent and repressive methods unscrupulously. It is quite evident of course that America's real motive in warning China and launching a propaganda campaign over the conclusion of a scientific-economic agreement is to prepare the ground for sale of more weapons to the fairly rich governments of the southern Persian Gulf littoral states.

But the principal question relates to the international, legal bases of the United States' warning. What are the international laws and regulations which give America the right to issue warnings to nations over the conclusion of economics agreements?

If the warning had come from an international body, it might have been worth some consideration. But by what right does a superpower that has lengthy records of violating international laws and regulations, issue such warnings?

One can only accept the remarks of the Chinese Prime Minister, Li Peng, who said in his visit with President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, that "The world is still dominated by the gunboat diplomacy of the power countries."

Dailies Deplore 'Power Struggle' in Afghanistan

LD2909144792 Tehran IRNA in English 0812 GMT 29 SEP 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept 29, IRNA—Three morning dailies here Tuesday commented on the visit to Tehran of the Afghan interim president Borhanoddin Rabbani, deploring the "power struggle" in Afghanistan and underlining Tehran's "significant" role in assisting Kabul to reconstruct the war-torn country.

The English daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' said in its editorial that Rabbani was expected to encourage Tehran to allocate more assistance towards the solution of the "myriad problems" in Afghanistan.

Referring to Tehran's viewpoint regarding "certain ambiguities" over lack of political stability in Afghanistan, the paper blamed the Afghan mojahedin leaders for "squandering the meagre available resources" of the country.

It added that the Afghan leaders "cannot expect other nations to offer them grants if there is no certainty that such assistances will be put to constructive uses."

"There must be some guarantee" for any country, including Iran, which intend to assist Afghanistan in its reconstruction projects that "whatever is reconstructed is not destroyed again in armed encounters which by now have been proved to be nothing more than power struggles among rival groups."

The paper referred to the necessity of presenting a justification by any government who intends to assist other countries, and said "it is hard to find justification for assistance extended to countries whose leaders have shown no practical sign of the intention to start reconstruction projects."

It assured that "Iran will not forget its Islamic duty, provided the Iranian leaders are convinced that the Afghan leaders are pursuing peaceful objectives in their county, and they are seriously thinking of carrying out reconstruction projects."

"As long as the Afghans prefer to plant mines in the ground instead of growing wheat, they should not expect their wheat to be provided from the other parts of the world."

The Persian daily 'JOMHURI-ESLAMI' termed Rabbani's visit as an "obvious" manifestation of coordination of the two Muslim and revolutionary countries.

Referring to the "power struggle" in Afghanistan the daily said it was the major problem in the way of peace in Afghanistan and establishment of legal organizations in the country.

It said the "problem would be solved only through coordination of the neighboring countries, Iran and Pakistan in particular, as well as their practical support for the legitimate Afghan Government."

It referred to the "reconstruction" of Afghanistan and said the "power struggle, caused by anyone or any group, will stop the reconstruction and pave the way for the interference of the hegemonistic foreign powers."

It concluded by asking the Afghan mujahideen to keep their "vigilance" and block the way to the foreigners and "take essential steps towards reconstruction and progress by strengthening their friendly relations with Muslim states."

Another Persian daily 'KAR VA KARGAR' (LABOUR AND LABOURER) touched upon the same subject saying that in the stage of reconstruction, Afghanistan's neighbors should play the key role in bringing peace and tranquility back to the country.

Referring to Iran as a country which proved its "goodwill" towards Afghanistan since during its 14-year war, the paper said Tehran could play a "significant" role in securing peace and tranquility to Afghanistan.

Need for Iraqi Dissidents To Coordinate Viewed

LD2609190192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1059 GMT 23 Sep 92

[Station commentary: "The conference of organizations opposed to the Iraqi Government"]

[Excerpts] Representatives of parties and organizations that oppose the Iraqi Government will hold their conference today in northern Iraq. [passage omitted]

Apart from political differences among the various parties, groups, organizations, and figures that make up the Iraqi dissidents' front, there are also ideological differences between them that prevent them from achieving a practical common goal. Of course, the struggle to change the Iraqi regime and its leadership is the common aim of all Iraqi opposition groups. But after Iraq's defeat in the Kuwaiti war and its consequences, politico-ideological differences have prevented dissident groups from agreeing on a common workable project and on the nature and identity of any future government.

Right now sensitive developments are taking place in Iraq the consequences of which may affect the whole region. In northern Iraq, Western coalition forces have created a safe-haven over which the Iraqi central government has no practical control. Two important Kurdish organizations in that region staged parliamentary elections there and formed their own government. Soon, too, they apparently intend to build up an independent Kurdish army in northern Iraq. A no-fly zone was also created in southern Iraqi that bans Iraqi fighters, and it is being said that security in southern Iraq could, sometime in the future, resemble the same set-up that exists in the north.

The creation of these two zones has given rise to the concern of some of the governments in the region who fear that the Western military coalition may dismember Iraq. Of course, all opposition groups and organizations are unanimously opposed to dismembering their country, and some of them are putting forward among the Kurds and Arabs of that country proposals for turning Iraq into a federation.

Efforts are supposed to be made during the conference to coordinate the activities of these groups. Bearing in mind the current sensitive conditions, the failure of Iraqi dissidents to coordinate their activities may prompt the possible division of Iraq or the continuation of the rule of its present government. Also, it does not seem that idological differences could stand in the way of efforts to eliminate political differences.

Identical political views among Iraqi dissident groups is an effective step toward determining the future of Iraq and will help to keep that country away from the possibility of dangerous developments.

Conference Resolution Backs Khamene'i

LD2809080692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Excerpts] The third Basij [mobilization] and National Security conference ended its work on Sunday with a resolution. The resolution stresses the Judicial Branch's role in confronting social vice and the Basij forces' preparedness to cooperate with the Judicial Branch. The Basij forces also declared their readiness to obey the esteemed leader's instructions regarding propagating virtue and prohibiting vice. The resolution condemned the Serbs' crimes in Bosnia-Hercegovina and global arrogance's latest plots in the region.

During the closing session, speeches were delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Movahedi-Kermani, representative of the supreme jurisconsult in the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and Brigadier General Afshar, commander of the Basij resistance forces. Mr. Haqpanah, the conference director, said in an interview with correspondents: This conference was the third that met during the current year. This third session took place in the wake of the present circumstances of the country and the strategy regarding the issue of propagating virtue and prohibiting vice, as issued by the esteemed leader. He added: in keeping with this strategy, the Basij resistance force has given priority in its programs to this issue, and until now 10 specialized committees and three general sessions with 150 participants—including scholars, military figures, and experts from universities and seminaries—have been organized for this purpose and have achieved the objectives sought.

Navy Said Ready To Defend Territorial Integrity

LD2709134492 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] On the fifth day of Holy Defense Week, Admiral Mohtaj, the Navy deputy commander, spoke about the activities undertaken toward reconstructing and expanding the capacity of the Navy's combat capabilities. Referring to the unstinting efforts of the Navy's devoted and expert personnel toward reconstructing naval equipment damaged during the imposed war, he said: Naval personnel have not only been working in pursuit of reconstruction but have also made efforts to increase their combat and defense capabilities.

Mohtaj described the research activities of the Navy's expert personnel for repairing and constructing combat equipment and said: We have so far carried out several research projects. He said that Iran's Navy is fully prepared to defend the country's territorial integrity, saying: At the moment, part of the Navy's equipment and facilities are being used for the country's reconstruction.

In conclusion, he spoke of the Navy's readiness to cooperate with neighboring countries on research and study and especially on exchanging students.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i on Crude Oil Output Plans

LD2509205592 Tehran IRNA in English 1347 GMT 24 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 24, IRNA—The average price of the Iranian crude oil was 18.80 dollars per barrel during the past six months, leading to a total revenue of 8 billion dollars, Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i announced here today. He told reporters that Iran will produce daily 3.5 million barrels of oil in the current calendar month (began Sept. 23) within its OPEC quota. The recent OPEC meeting put the total output at 24.2 million barrels, up by 1.2 million as compared with the previous ceiling, Aqazadeh-Kho'i added.

Noting that in the final statement of the recent OPEC session no clear quota was determined for the members, Aqazadeh-Kho'i said Iran's quota was 3.2 million bpd out of the OPEC's 23 million bpd, however, in the wake of the recent rise, iran will produce 3.5 million bpd in the current calendar month. Oil experts believe that since the other 11 OPEC members are already producing oil in full capacity, this rise will only include Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i said there is no concern over the oil demand in the next six months, and that OPEC monitoring committee has predicted a quota of 25 million bpd. "But in case Iraq returns to the OPEC quota system, the problem of reduction of the other members' quota would arise."

Saudi Arabia increased its quota from 5.6 million bpd to the current 8.4 million bpd in the absence of Iraq.

Stressing that Iran's future policy in OPEC would be to defend higher prices and to increase production capacity, he said Iran's production capacity is about 4 million bpd now, which is to rise to 4.5 million bpd during the second five-year development plan (to begin in 1994). He predicted that OPEC oil price would reach 21 dollars per barrel in winter. "We will reach the target sooner if OPEC members show flexibility."

Asked whether Ecuador intended to quit OPEC, Aqazadeh-Kho'i replied the issue will be discussed in the November meeting. "However, this will not weaken the OPEC," he said.

Referring to the recent agreement between the Oil Ministry and several foreign companies, Aqazadeh-Kho'i said the volume of the four-year agreement is 1,710 million dollars, as per of which daily one billion cubic meters of gas and 50,000 to 60,000 barrels of condensate will be produced at the 'Pars-e Jonub' field in the Persian Gulf. The project, signed with the italian firm of Saipem, includes construction of six off-shore rigs, two trunklines, a refinery at the Taheri port in Hormuzgan Province, and drilling of 18 wells, he added.

Japan's Mitsubishi Corp and the Russian firm Machinoimport are also to cooperate with Saipem. The field was explored in the Persian Gulf in the last two years with a proven deposit of 100 trillion cubic meters of gas and three billion barrels of condensate, worth 200 billion dollars.

Report Views Progress of War Damage Reconstruction

LD2609160792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0450 GMT 26 Sep 92

[Report by the Central News Unit research group]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The vicious invasion of the Iraqi regime covered extensive regions of our country's territory resulting in a great deal of damage. Five provinces, including 65 cities and 1,200 villages, were damaged or turned into rubble. Heavy damage was inflicted on 95,000 square km of our territory, and nearly 1,250,000 refugees fled their homes for other cities.

The reborn Islamic Republic of Iran started reconstruction work in Mehr 1367 [corresponding to September-October 1988], after the establishment of the cease-fire [in August 1988]. The level of war damage, based on available statistics, was very upsetting; the figures were extremely high. The president, speaking at the international conference on reconstructing war-damaged areas in 1369 [year starting March 1990], announced that the amount of direct damages totaled $600 billion, and indirect damages totaled $400 billion. In the war-damaged regions, 32 percent of buildings and installations, 31 percent of machinery and equipment, and 36 percent of goods and materials were directly damaged.

The headquarters for reconstructing war-damaged regions has put all its efforts into rapidly reconstructing the cities and villages. The headquarters handed over the reconstruction work of many of the war-hit regions to the larger provinces. Each of the provinces, through the assistance of the people and the refugees of the imposed war, started work on reconstructing war-damaged zones. By the end of 1370, 200,000 homes were built in the war-damaged regions. During the same period, 500 billion rials of credit were allocated to reconstruction. It is predicted that by the end of this year [March 1993], 500,000 refugees will return to their towns and villages.

The central headquarters for reconstruction and construction announced that reconstruction work on 54 towns and cities has been completed.

In recent years, employees of the oil industry succeeded in completing the first phase of reconstructing Abadan refinery with the use of 10,000 experts. Furthermore, in the early part of last year, distillation column 80 of that refinery was commissioned.

According to the nation's first five-year socioeconomic program, the refugees of the imposed war will return to their towns and cities by the year 1372. Based on this, the reconstruction trend must be speeded up. Currently, certain problems exist in the reconstruction trend. For example, 600 billion rials of credit has been allocated for reconstructing Khorramshahr, while experts estimate that the figure required could be as high as one trillion rials. The shortage of credit and expertise, transportation difficulties, and the shortage of building material continue to be the most important shortcomings in reconstructing war-damaged regions.

Although the government has undertaken beneficial steps—such as providing banking facilities, construction material at government prices, loans at low cost, and tax relief for water and electricity—reconstruction faces certain problems in the state sector. Returning refugees complain of a shortage of schools, employment, and financial incentives.

Despite the current shortcomings and disorder, it must be accepted that reconstruction is a massive task and a heavy responsibility due to the extensive and heavy financial damages. Undoubtedly, it encompasses a large section of government spending, especially its current budget. The state paid 6.9 billion rials compensation for damages incurred to farmers and cattle breeders of war-damaged regions by the year 1368. On the other hand, every rural home has been paid 300,000 tumans in compensation.

What has made the reconstruction trend more suitable today? Strong management, the use of private sector contractors, and the increase in the reconstruction budget. It is hoped that with the assistance of experts, the reconstruction work will end according to schedule.

Malekzadeh Comments on Health Ministry Plans

LD2709164592 Tehran IRNA in English 1545 GMT 27 Sep 92

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 27, IRNA—Health Minister Dr. Mohammad Reza Malekzadeh reported on the achievements and future plans of his ministry to the open session of the Majles here today.

He referred to the reduction of mortality among the children under five years old, reduction of the rate of the population growth to less than 2.7 percent in the current calendar year, promotion of the life span, and establishment of over 4,000 rural health houses and clinics as some of the achievements of the ministry over the past three years.

The number of the active hospital beds rose to 86,000, and over 70,000 more beds are being equipped this year, he said, adding that the number of active beds will increase to 93,000 next year if necessary credits are provided.

Elsewhere, Malekzadeh pointed to the significant reduction in the number of patients despatched to the foreign countries for treatment and said in 1365 (1986-87) nearly 65 million dollars was allocated to these patients; however, only six million dollars was devoted this year, thanks to the medical equipment of the domestic hospitals.

"Plans are underway to make the country self-sufficient in all specialized fields next year," he added.

Malekzadeh said domestic medicine production rose by 42 percent last Iranian year (ended March 20, 1992) as compared with the three years leading to 1370, while medicine cosumption also rose to rials 121.5 billion, rials 142.9 billion, and rials 171.8 billion in the years 1368, 1369 and 1370 respectively.

On the number of the medical students Malekzadeh said the total number of students were supposed to increase to 86,000 by the year 1372 (1993-94), however, the number exceeded 90,000 this year.

"From 1372 onward, we will have annually 1,000 specialists in 24 medical branches, 4,000 physicians, 600 pharmacists, and more than 15,000 paramedics" Malekzadeh predicted.

Pakistan

Iran Border Commission Meets on Drug Smuggling

LD2909133092 Tehran IRNA in English 1007 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] OANA-IRNA [dateline as received]—The seventh Iran-Pakistan Joint Border Commission ended its work in Quetta Monday by calling for fight against narcotics smuggling at border areas of the two countries.

The two sides discussed settlement of border issues and problems during the 3-day commission [meeting] which opened Saturday.

The Pakistani side praised efforts by Iranian delegation in this connection.

Expansion of cooperation between the two countries in the campaign against narcotics and prevention of illegal trafficking of smugglers were among other topics of discussion.

Officials from Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan Province and Pakistan's Baluchestan were present in the session.

Iran-Pakistan Joint Border Commission was set up in 1988.

PRC Team Arrives To Discuss Industrial Issues

BK2909073492 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 29 Sep 92

[Text] An 11-member Chinese delegation has arrived in Islamabad to discuss matters relating to Pakistan-China cooperation in the fields of electricity generation and heavy and light engineering industries.

Mubarak Postpones Trip; 'Unforeseen' Circumstances

BK0110155292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has postponed his three-day visit to Pakistan which was scheduled to begin on 17 October. It has been officially announced in Islamabad today that he will visit Pakistan sometime later. President Mubarak had to postpone his visit due to some unforeseen circumstances which necessitated his stay in Cairo. Talks are underway between the two countries on the new dates of the visit.

Minister Comments on IMF-World Bank Meetings

BK0110150892 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] The World Bank, IMF, and Asian Development Bank will provide about $450 million as an emergency assistance to Pakistan for the reconstruction program in the wake of damages caused by heavy floods. This was stated by the federal finance minister, Mr. Sartaj Aziz, while talking to PTV representative Abdul Khaliq Saghana in Islamabad today on his return from abroad after attending the meetings of World Bank and IMF.

[Begin recording] [Sarghana] You have attended the meetings of World Bank and IMF. What was the response these international organizations?

[Aziz] My visit to Washington was highly successful; first of all because at the World Bank and IMF there was great sympathy for the damage caused by floods and both the president of the bank and the managing director of the IMF showed considerable interest in financing the reconstruction and rehabilitation phase of this particular event. And, their missions are coming here next week to assess the damage and subject to their reports, we hope that the IMF will provide a soft loan of about $200 million which is equal to 25 percent of Pakistan's quota which, under the IMF rule, members can draw if they face such an emergency. The World Bank may provide something like $150 million for reconstruction and rehabilitation of roads, telecommunication, irrigation works. The World Bank mission is also coming here on the 13th and the Asian Bank is also sending a mission. So, on the whole, we hope to receive about $400-$450 million in the next two months to overcome this problem.

The second part of my visit was to attract foreign investment, and there was an investment conference on the 18th, which was attended by representatives of about 325 American companies. There was another conference in Toronto where about 200 Canadian companies' representatives attended. There is great interest in Pakistan after our liberalization. Many companies are making specific plans to send delegations, to have contacts with businessmen to set up joint ventures or open investment opportunities. [end recording]

Foreign Exchange Reserves at $966.6 Million

BK0110085692 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 1 Oct 92

[Text] The National Assembly was informed today that the country's foreign exchange reserves stood at $966.6 million on the 8th of last month as compared to $482.9 million dollars on the 30th June last year. The parliamentary secretary for finance, Rana Tanvir Hussain, told the house in reply to a question by Mian Mohammad Yasin Khan Wattoo that the position has improved as a result of removal of restrictions on foreign currency movement and the exchange and payments reforms introduced in February last year.

Earlier, the house offered fateha [prayers] for those who lost their lives in the PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] plane crash at Kathmandu. The house expressed heartfelt sympathies with the families of the victims. A point of order to offer fateha was raised by the minister of state for manpower and overseas Pakistanis, Mian Mohammad Zaman.